

No 62,194

THE TIMES 1785-1985 Tomorrow

Good sports
Pétanque, korfbal,
fin swimming... all
taken seriously at
the World Games
Formidable!
From the Louvre to
the love-burgers, a
look at life in Paris
Watching birds
Who's made the
cut at the halfway
stage of the Open?
Nile file
William Golding on
an Egyptian visit
pursued by fame...

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was shared by two winners yesterday - Mrs Leonora Cardiff of Little Hasleley, Oxford and Mr I. S. Pullen of Woking, Surrey. Tomorrow £42,000 can be won - £40,000 in the weekly competition and £2,000 in the daily Portfolio, page 16; how to play, Information Service, back page.

YTS value questioned by report

Doubts about the effectiveness of the £800 million Youth Training Scheme were raised yesterday by Sir Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General. He said in a report that up to £55 million may have been wasted on unfilled places. Back page.

UVF arrest

David Allen, of the Ulster Volunteer Force, who was serving a 25-year sentence when he disappeared in 1983 while on "leave" for a funeral, will appear in court at Lisburn, Northern Ireland, after being arrested in Norfolk.

Terrorist code

US lawyers, newspaper publishers and television executives are to discuss drawing up a voluntary code to starve terrorists of publicity. Page 2.

Rapid French

France will introduce a 50 mph minimum speed limit in motorway fast lanes and has increased traffic fines to cut its mounting road toll. Page 5.

Insurance up

Household insurance costs in inner cities will soar this year because of a rising tide of thefts and burglaries. Page 3.

Reagan angry

President Reagan has been angered by "distasteful" press and television speculation about his health by doctors unconnected with his operation. Page 8.

Lords recess

The Lords will rise for the summer recess on Wednesday, July 31, and will return on Monday, October 14.

Cautious Cram

Steve Cram, new world record holder for 1,500 metres, will not meet Sebastian Coe over that distance tonight at Crystal Palace. Cram runs the mile tomorrow. Earlier report, page 24.

Open record

Christy O'Connor jnr, of Ireland, set a course record for an Open golf championship at Sandwich when he took the first-round lead with a 64. Page 23.

Leader, page 13
Letters: On cutting controls, from Mr J. Cummins, and Mr G. Turvey; industrial training, from Mr H. N. Raine.
Leading articles: Top salaries; Labour Party: Sudan.
Features, pages 10-12
What is still wrong with the state; Bernard Levin means the language; barricades; Cult of Kim Il Sung; Lord Forte and the Savoy; Women's Institute revamped.
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Top Civil Servants get up to 46% pay rise

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

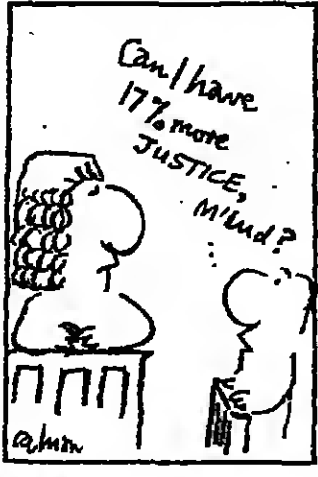
Whitehall's two dozen top civil servants are to be given pay rises of between 32 per cent and 46 per cent from next March as part of a pay package announced by the Prime Minister last night.

In a considered Cabinet response to the latest report from the Review Body on Top Salaries, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said in a written Commons reply that a staged award for senior civil servants, senior officers in the Armed Forces and the judiciary would add between 12.2 per cent and 17.6 per cent to Treasury pay bills from next March.

But the most dramatic awards went to the very men who are at present administering policies of government pay restraint.

Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary to the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service, is to receive an increase, backdated to the start of this month, from £51,250 to £63,125. From next March his salary goes up to £75,000, an increase of £23,750, or 46 per cent, in a matter of nine months.

The salary of Admiral Sir



TOP PUBLIC PAY

Post	Current since Nov '84	July '85	Mar '86	% increase Mar '86/Current
Head of Civil Service	£51,250	£63,125	£75,000	46.3
Permanent Secretaries	£45,500	£52,750	£60,000	31.9
Under-Secs	£29,500	£31,750	£34,000	15.3
Staff Nurse	£6,582	£8,960	£7,175	9.4

Max Nov '84 Since April Mar '86/Nov '84

Congress threatens Japanese trade

From Michael Binyon, Washington

In an ominous indication of the United States' increasingly angry determination to force fairer trade practices on Japan, leading Democrats have introduced a Bill threatening Japan and three other nations with stiff trade penalties unless they open up their markets immediately.

The long-threatened Bill, submitted to the Senate on Tuesday and introduced in the House of Representatives yesterday, calls on Japan, Brazil, Taiwan and South Korea to cut trade surpluses with the US by 5 per cent at once or face a 25 per cent extra tariff on all exports here beginning on October 15 next year.

The Reagan Administration, which is trying to cajole the Japanese to buy more foreign goods without resorting to sanctions, has denounced the Bill as protectionist and threatened to veto it.

But there is such widespread support for retaliation against Japan that Congress would probably have enough votes to override even a presidential veto.

The Administration's fear is that the Bill will fan growing anti-Japanese sentiment which blames Japanese imports for the loss of US jobs in electronics, motor and consumer industries. This could have dangerous repercussions on the close political relations with Tokyo.

Mr Yoshio Okawara, the former Japanese Ambassador, said in a farewell address

recently that anti-Japanese feeling was at its highest since the Second World War. Among the Bill's authors are the most powerful figures in committees dealing with trade in both Senate and House.

The legislation would also require the US to charge both Japan and the EEC with unfair trade practice in proceedings before international trade bodies; mandate the Treasury Secretary to lower the dollar's value; and remove trade policy-making from Mr Reagan and centralise it in the office of the US Trade Representative, currently Mr Clayton Yeutter.

The principal target is Japan, but the other three countries have all breached US notions of trade fairness.

Mr Yeutter yesterday denounced the proposal strongly. "It's the worst of all worlds. It is patently anti-consumer, undermines the international trading system, and invites retaliation that would cost jobs."

But with the US trade deficit expected to rise to \$150 billion (£107 billion) this year, the Administration concedes that it will have to do something to appease Congress anger.

Last year Japan had a trade surplus with the US of \$37 billion, expected to rise to \$45-50 billion. The Bill says that Japan and Brazil also had "excess" world surpluses; to avoid the 25 per cent tariff they would have to cut these as well as bilateral surpluses with the US. Declining dollar, page 17.

Contaminated wine in UK

The Ministry of Agriculture is to advise British wine merchants to remove all stocks of Austrian white wine from their shelves and the public is being advised not to drink any they may have bought after samples contaminated with anti-freeze were discovered in tests in South Yorkshire last night.

The tests were carried out after a consumer complaint by South Yorkshire County Council.

The supplier of the wine - a Geogener Spiesse - was not known last night.

In the past few days thousands of bottles of contaminated Austrian white wine have been found in West Germany. A BONNEN West Germany last night issued a list of 82 Austrian wines found to be contaminated (Frank Johnson writes). But an Austrian trade spokesman said that Britain was unlikely to be affected.

Thereafter, the actual fabrication of the bomb would have been a relatively simple matter. Any number of scientific libraries contained books describing how to make a nuclear weapon, he said. The implications for an eventual nuclear threat by terrorists was clear.

A book containing the details of the two men's investigation, with photocopies of the supporting documents, including the final contract, is to be published by the French publishers, Jean Cyrille Godefroy, within the next few days. Mr Berthieu said that legal and scientific experts, including a nuclear physicist, had examined the documents and had declared them to be authentic.

Throughout the inquiry, Mr Berthieu posed as the representative of a South American government. The regular documented disappearance of large quantities of plutonium and enriched uranium from nuclear centres in Britain and the US convinced him that

from February, are certain to be alarmed at these salaries.

Sir Peter Middleton, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, is to receive 37 per cent extra by March, and Sir David Hancock, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Education and Science, 32 per cent extra by March. Sir David will get an extra £14,500 to put him on the new rate for all 22 departmental permanent secretaries of £60,000. The Opposition last night reacted with a predictable onslaught against "one law for the rich and one law for the poor in the public sector".

Mr Roy Hattersley, the Shadow Chancellor, delivered a swift and sharp warning to the Prime Minister that if a Commons statement is not forthcoming today over this "economic illiteracy" they will consider other ways to express their disapproval. He said: "We shall fight as hard as we can."

Mr John Prescott, Labour's employment spokesman, said the announcement was "a kick in the teeth to teachers".

The Cabinet, having read a paper from Sir Robert, endorsed the view of the review body, chaired by Lord Plowden, that differentials had to be widened at the top and that action had to be taken to stem the mounting threat of civil service morale.

The report suggested that men like Sir Robert could earn as much as £110,200 in the private sector, but that service morale was "at an exceptionally low ebb". Problems were building up for the future because of resignations of high

Continued on back page, col 6

Shake-up of Soviet military

From a Correspondent Moscow

Big changes within the Soviet military hierarchy appeared to be under way after the return to Moscow of two senior officers from East Germany and a spate of rumours that Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, thought to have fallen from favour, may be about to make a comeback.

Last weekend, the official East German news agency ADN announced that General Mikhail Zaitsev, the commander of Soviet troops in East Germany, was leaving along with General Alexei Lichchev, a senior member of his staff there.

Yesterday, East European sources here said General Lichchev, aged 57, had been appointed to head the powerful Political Directorate of the armed forces, replacing General Alexei Yefimov, aged 77.

So far, however, the Kremlin has made no announcement. Meanwhile, there have been unconfirmed reports that Marshal Ogarkov, removed as Chief of Staff last September, had been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Warsaw Pact forces, a post which would also restore him to the position of Deputy Soviet Defence Minister.

Marshal Ogarkov's dismissal was attributed last September to a wide variety of possibilities, including his role in the shooting down of the South Korean Boeing 747 in 1983.



General Zaitsev, recalled from East Germany



Olympic rivals keep their distance

Episode two of the saga that seems to run and run began yesterday, when Zola Budd (left) and Mary Slaney (née Decker) spoke at separate press conferences about tomorrow's re-run of their infamous Olympic 3,000 metres race in Los Angeles last year. "It's better we meet on the track", Miss Budd said. "I'm not very good at words." During the Olympic race, the two tangled, Mrs Slaney was left sprawling on the ground in tears and blaming Miss Budd. The pair meet again at Crystal Palace, although less than half the tickets have been sold. Simon Barnes, page 24.

We have changed face of politics, says Thatcher

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Prime Minister told Conservative back-benchers last night that the Government and party had changed the political landscape. "Thatcherism", which she preferred to call Conservatism, was now "the new conventional wisdom".

In a 30 minute "end of term" address to the party at Westminster, Mrs Thatcher invited them to "help of the Government's achievements and, in particular, of what it had done in the previous 12 months."

"We have achieved things which, as the seventies progressed, most people thought were impossible, economically and politically." But as time passed these things had become "an accepted fixture of the political landscape".

People had forgotten, she said, how the Government's achievements were secured in the teeth of opposition from those who now claimed to support them. But the Prime Minister added that there was much more to be done. "We have to continue to be radical, so people know that this government is still in business," she said.

She promised the party more trade union reforms, though not in the next Parliamentary session; a further "bonfire of controls"; a lot more privatisation; reform of local government finance; further cuts in income tax; and legislation as already foreshadowed on restructuring the welfare system, on wages councils and on public order.

Mrs Thatcher's listeners reported that her speech was more carefully prepared than its counterpart a year ago.

When she used an unguarded phrase describing elements in the coal mines as "the enemy within", yesterday she harked back to last year, recalling that the miners' strike was then four months old and a strike in progress, with Sterling falling.

"The very existence of democracy and the rule of law was under challenge, but we got through," she said.

Although the opposition would prefer public amnesia the Government, the police and working miners had then "defeated the efforts of the National Union of Mineworkers to impose its will on the nation by violence and intimidation."

Mrs Thatcher spent little time on the Alliance but urged her MPs to press the Labour party with questions about their policies. Labour was not being attacked enough, she said.

"They should be asked, if they were for NATO or against. Were they for handing special immunities to the trade unions? Were they against violence for political ends on the picket line or in the council chamber? Would they repeal the immigration laws? Control investment of pension funds? How would their tax increases be?"

"We have got to press these questions at every opportunity," Mrs Thatcher urged. "These are the things we have got to be attacking."

Mrs Thatcher said the were signs of hope in the unemployment picture, with "reasonably promising" figures for June. Although she would never make forecasts, she said, the party should look on the bright side.

Minister angry as soccer riot clubs escape penalty

Mr Neil Macfarlane, the Minister for Sport, yesterday described as "absurd" and "astounding" the decision of the Football Association's appeals board to rescind penalties imposed on the Millwall and Luton Town clubs after the rioting at the match at Luton on March 13 (Our Political Editor writes).

The Board said yesterday it had lifted a £7,500 fine imposed by the FA's disciplinary commission on Millwall, whose fans were held by police to have been almost wholly responsible.

A requirement on Luton to fence the perimeter of the ground was also lifted.

In the rioting, police made 33 arrests. Thirty-one policemen and 13 others were hurt.

Mr Macfarlane said the decision would amaze both national and international footballing interests.

"The criticism which has always been made by the football authorities against magistrates for too great leniency can never be made again," he said.

US growth slumps to 1.7%

By David Smith

America's economic growth rate fell sharply in the second quarter, according to figures published yesterday. The United States Government, convinced that the strong dollar is to blame, wants a big fall in its value.

US gross national product grew at an annual rate of 1.7 per cent in the second quarter, down from an earlier estimate of 3.1 per cent. First quarter growth was 0.3 per cent.

The big drag on the US economy has been the strong dollar, which has hit exports and boosted imports.

Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the Commerce Secretary, said that the would like to see the dollar drop 20-25 per cent in value over the next 18 months.

Paradoxically, the dollar rose in value yesterday, because of assurances by Mr Baldrige and Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the US central bank, the Federal Reserve Board, that growth will pick up to around 4 per cent in the second half of the year. The pound dipped 65 points to \$1.4067 in London and was later quoted in New York at \$1.4000.

Sterling was generally strong, however, rising three pence to DM4.0352 against the West German mark.

Details, page 17

New unit to fight drugs threat

By Stewart Tondler Crime Reporter

The commander of Scotland Yard's Special Branch and anti-terrorist squad is to become national co-ordinator of a new police intelligence unit designed to combat the rising tide of drug trafficking.

The appointment of Deputy Assistant Commissioner Colin Hewitt, aged 55, was announced yesterday by Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary as part of a package of police measures based on the report of a working party by senior officers.

Mr Brittan said that each of the nine regional crime squads in England and Wales would be given a specialist drug force drawn from 200 officers. At the same time Scotland Yard is to increase the strength of its own drugs squad from its present level of 30.

The new national drugs intelligence unit will be staffed by police officers and Customs men, and replaces the Central Drugs Intelligence Unit, based on Scotland Yard, which has been in operation for just over 10 years.

Mr Brittan said that the new unit would have "an enhanced intelligence gathering and analytical capability".

The CDIU has been using a computer for some time but the files maintained by Customs have often been acknowledged as far superior. For some years police and Customs have been at odds, especially in London, and the new unit is clearly intended to repair the damage.

Mr Hewitt, a quite-spoken man who headed the Yard's complaints investigation branch before taking over Special Branch about four years ago, will have a rank equivalent to chief constable. He will be responsible for co-ordinating the work of the new unit with the operations of regional crime squads.

A steering group, made up of police and Customs officers, is being formed. A similar group has been operating in London between the Yard and Customs officers since last year.

Continued on back page, col 4

Forte rejects claims by Savoy group

Lord Forte would like to own the Savoy hotels "not through personal ambition" but because he wants to see them "rehabilitated and flourishing".

In an exclusive interview with *The Times* today, he denies claims made by the Savoy group in advertisements last week that he was frustrated because his personal ambition to acquire control of the Savoy had been thwarted. Before that appeared, he says, he had tried to keep the takeover battle on a dignified footing.

Forte on the warpath, page 10

After eight years of silence, Leon Uris makes his long-awaited return to the land of EXODUS



A turbulent story of unforgettable men and women - people who became strangers in their own land

"A highly readable novel, rushing ahead with enormous energy"

FINANCIAL TIMES

A No. 1 Sunday Times bestseller in hardcover, THE HAJ is at last available in paperback from Corgi

MP challenged to repeat bank fraud allegations outside Parliament

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

The two businessmen linked by an MP to allegations of possible fraud in loans made by Johnson Matthey Bankers yesterday denied the claims. One challenged the MP to repeat his accusations without the protection of parliamentary privilege.

The challenge came from Mr Michael Hepker, chairman of Sumrie Clothes, who was accused on Wednesday by Mr Brian Sedgmore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, of leading Bank of England auditors "up the garden path" over a £1.5 million loan.

According to Mr Sedgmore, the loan was paid to a company in the Isle of Man called Ravensbury Investments and involved fraud.

Yesterday Mr Hepker, speaking from Chicago, said that Sumrie Clothes, affected on the Stock Exchange after the allegations, had never been involved with JMB. However, one of his companies had had a loan of £1 million in 1981 or early 1982 for a property development in Wales.

The money had been lent to a United Kingdom company called Provincial Properties (Wales) and owned by Mr Hepker. In a statement, Mr Hepker said that he had recently had meetings with Mr Robin Collier, one of the auditors, about repayment of the loan.

The statement said: "The allegations against me of fraud are without foundation and I challenge Mr Sedgmore to

repeat his statements outside the privileged position of the Commons.

Mr Hepker, who is Rhodian by birth and now resident in France, enlarged on the statement when he spoke to *The Times*. He said that the loan had been made on "normal commercial terms", secured by the site to be developed, cash and gilt edge securities. The cash and securities would now be worth in excess of £800,000. They had been deposited in roughly equal amounts.

The plan had been to develop a 1.5 acre site in the centre of Barry, south Glamorgan, for a supermarket. The site had been bought but had yet to be developed, and the talks with the Bank of England were on how it might be developed to the benefit of the bank. With interest the sum owed might be £1.5 million.

Mr Hepker, who returns to



Mr Michael Hepker

London on Sunday, became chairman of Sumrie last year after a firm called Le Chevalerie, based in Monte Carlo, became the largest shareholder.

Sumrie, which has two other directors, is presently in dispute with Mr Patrick Benson, the company's former general manager. Last month Mr Benson circulated shareholders with a letter by which he had also sent to the Stock Exchange, Inland Revenue and Department of Trade, concerning Mr Hepker.

The second businessman named by Mr Sedgmore in connection with the £248 million collapse of JMB, now being investigated by the City of London fraud squad, was Mr Mahmud Sipra, chairman of the El-Saeed group. Mr Sedgmore said that a JMB official had been warned repeatedly about handling El-Saeed business.

Yesterday, Mr Sipra said his organization, involved in oil and shipping, had ground to a halt because of the JMB affair. "I am not in any way responsible for the collapse of that bank. Our organization is responsible for less than maybe 10 per cent of the total losses."

Mr Sipra said that he would welcome investigations. He accused Mr Eric Ellen, head of the International Bureau of Maritime Fraud and the man said to have advised JMB, to repeat his accusations.

A spokesman for the Director of Public Prosecutions said yesterday that a preliminary report was expected shortly.



Police armed with automatic rifles took position outside Lambeth Magistrates Court in London yesterday where eight people were remanded on terrorist charges

Handling of dockyards by ministry 'inept'

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

A committee of members of Parliament yesterday described as "inept and insensitive" the Ministry of Defence's handling of proposals for reorganizing the royal dockyards.

This is one among several criticisms contained in a report by the House of Commons defence committee.

The report deals with an open government document published in April by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, which set out various options for reorganizing the dockyards, and allowed three months for consultation, before Mr Heseltine announced his final decision.

The open government document made it clear that the Government's preferred solution would be to introduce private management into the dockyards at Devonport and Rosyth by leasing the facilities.

The defence committee says: "The time allowed for consultation was much too short. We further consider the Ministry of Defence's handling of the consultation process has been inept and insensitive."

The *Future of the royal dockyards* (Stationery Office £11.20).

Pits riot charges in doubt after police 'frame-up'

From Peter Davenport, Sheffield

Court cases involving almost fifty charges of riot arising from the miners' strike may now be dropped, after the prosecution collapsed in the O'Grave trial.

Discussions were going on yesterday between senior police officers and counsel for the prosecution amid concern that cases had been wrongly handled.

On Monday 13 pickets were cleared of riot and unlawful assembly by a jury at Sheffield Crown Court after incidents outside the National Coal Board headquarters in Doncaster in May last year. The case lasted eight weeks and cost an estimated £250,000.

Two days later 14 pickets charged with riot outside the O'Grave coke works, were freed at the same court when the prosecution dropped its case on the forty-eighth day of a hearing costing at least £300,000. A fifteenth accused was acquitted earlier.

The authorities have still to achieve a conviction for riot.

Another riot trial involving eight men after incidents at Rossington colliery near Doncaster is due to open at Sheffield on Monday. But sources at the office of the South Yorkshire prosecuting solicitor said yesterday that the chief constable and counsel for the prosecution were discussing whether the case will go ahead.

About forty other men also face riot charges arising from the O'Grave confrontation last June.

The results in Sheffield this week have cast doubt on the wisdom of the police in bringing the ancient charge of riot to deal with violence during the miners' strike. They may also influence how the police handle future public disorder and industrial conflict.

There was a feeling yesterday that the police had been unable to produce the depth of evidence required to back up such grave charges, which carry possible life sentences, and that in their anxiety to make the charges stick officers opened themselves to some of the gravest accusations made against the police in a British court.

It seemed that the police as much as the pickets were on trial.

The local newspaper to Sheffield, the *Morning Telegraph*, had harsh words yesterday about the outcome, which it said had proved a perfect stage for political lawyers representing the defence and a hindrance to the rebuilding of good relations between police and mining communities. But it added: "The prosecution case often seemed flimsy and progressed - if it progressed - only at the expense of grave embarrassment to the police, whose methods of preparing the case often seemed careless and sometimes seemed improper."

To anyone present at O'Grave on that hot summer's day of June 19 last year, there can be no doubt that a bloody riot involving thousands of police and pickets did occur.

But to those who followed the evidence in court No. 2 at Sheffield, the prosecution case seemed doomed from early on. The evidence against the individuals in the dock never seemed to substantiate the prosecution's opening, with its dramatic descriptions of the confrontation and its display of weapons collected from the battleground.

The case stumbled on and collapsed into a series of booby-traps that the police almost seemed to have set for themselves.

Great weight was put on a video film of the events and the jury saw 400 still photographs. But lawyers for the defence were able to counter with their own pictures which showed that some policemen could not have been where they claimed to be at the time of arrests.

Many of the police officers from forces throughout the country who followed each other into the witness box admitted that parts of their statements had been dictated to them by a South Yorkshire solicitor. One defence barrister called it "the worst example of a mass frame-up in this country this century."

He complained that the police appeared to have been told to make arrests and statements in pairs.

In one of the most dramatic moments, that led to the acquittal of a fifteenth defendant, a Home Office forensic scientist said that a constable had probably forged his colleague's signature on a witness statement.

Lawyers for the defence, who argued that it was not a question of whether the defendants should have faced any charge, but that they should not have been accused of riot, have already indicated their desire for a public inquiry.

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O'Grave during the riot

Tax takes bigger slice of pay

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

"We made a pledge to the British people to reduce the burden of income tax. We must not, and will not, go back on that pledge."

The figures, based on information supplied by ministers in parliamentary replies, show that a married man with two children will pay £76.95 in central government taxation (income tax, national insurance, VAT and other indirect taxes) this year from gross earnings of £186.98.

A direct comparison allowing for inflation shows that in 1978-79, the same man would have paid £61.40 in taxation on gross earnings of £164.25.

The figures also show that the average man pays three times as much a week (£16.52) in national insurance contributions as he does in rates (£5.75). The average rates burden at the start of the Conservative Government was £4.56 a week.

Mr Jack Straw, Labour MP for Blackburn, whose parliamentary questions supplied the information on which the figures were based, said the Government "would not only have to privatize British Gas and British Airways before the next election but sell off the Crown Jewels before the cold war ends."

Asked in a television interview on Wednesday to give a pledge that she would cut taxes in the lifetime of this Parliament, the Prime Minister said: "We shall go on with our present policy of cutting direct taxes. I cannot give you an absolute pledge. It is our first objective to cut income tax and particularly at the lower levels of income. It is very, very important."

Teachers' unions to reconsider offer

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Moves to reopen the talks on the teachers' pay dispute were made yesterday after the unions discovered that the employers' invitation to go to arbitration was based on an improved offer of 6.06 per cent and not on the lower offer of 5 per cent.

Mr Fred Jarvis, leader of the teachers' side and general secretary of the National Union of Teachers (NUT), agreed to hold a meeting of the teachers' panel of the Burnham negotiating committee in London on Tuesday after a request for such a meeting from Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers.

Mr Smithies and the other union leaders who are at the Council of Local Education Authorities' conference in Loughborough, feel they have been kept in the dark by the NUT about the basis on which the management was willing to go to arbitration.

Mr Smithies said: "We are morally satisfied that the employers would be prepared to

Jobs for teenagers in catering

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

A big increase in employment of school leavers in Britain's hotels and restaurants, at weekly wages of between £35 and £40, is now expected after the reform of the wages councils.

The pay level - about £20 less than that laid down by the wages council for the catering industry - is seen in the trade as sufficient to attract 16 and 17-year-old people away from social security or Youth Training Scheme positions into full-time jobs.

The British Hotel, Restaurant and Caterers Association said the reform of the councils would encourage its members to employ young people at wages the industry could afford.

There was a greater likelihood of young people being offered jobs as porters or trainee chefs now that regulations were to be removed. The current minimum rate for a 16-year-old in the catering industry is £52.92 a week, rising to £57.96 at the age of 17.

Kinnock backs Dormand

By Our Political Reporter

Important jobs in opposition and government.

Mr Neil Kinnock has added his weight to the pressure on Mr Jack Dormand, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, to stand for the post of Labour chief whip.

Mr Kinnock is understood to share the views of the 70-strong Labour Solidarity group, which made the first approaches to Mr Dormand, that the party needs a man of his stature and authority in one of the most

BR writ on rail bus 'blacking'

By Our Labour Reporter

British Rail yesterday issued a High Court writ ordering the National Union of Railwaymen to lift its "blacking" of 25 new two-car diesel "rail buses" built by a private company (Our Labour Reporter writes).

The railmen's executive instructed its members to boycott the train because they were not built by British Rail Engineering Ltd, the state-owned company which has manufactured others at a cost of £300,000 each.

The court order calls on the NUR to hold a ballot under the Trade Union Act, 1984.

The instruction to take industrial action was issued in June, last year, before the legislation came into force and before the union's annual conference decided to oblige by the law.

Mr Jimmy Knapp, the NUR general secretary, said his executive would meet before the court hearing next Tuesday. It is likely that they will order a vote.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

New deal sought on liability

Moves are being made within the Bar to muster the co-operation of other professions in pressing for legislation to give them a new deal on personal liability. They want to avoid bankruptcy as a result of heavy claims for alleged negligence.

Up to, say, £500,000 could be covered by compulsory insurance. Beyond that figure the professional would be safe if not contracted to be liable.

The idea is to protect a professional's home, health and job. It was unjust that a professional man should not have the protection given to a company director, Mr Michael Ogden, QC, chairman of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board told the association yesterday.

Sir Denis Marshall, past president of the Law Society and a council member, said that claims were being made each year against ten per cent of solicitors.

The proposals originate from a sub-committee of the United Kingdom Inter-professional Group. It consisted of a barrister, a solicitor, a doctor and an architect.

Mr Ogden said that most architects he had represented in the past ten years had been under-insured.

In a paper prepared for the meeting he and Sir Denis said: "In this country fear of litigation does not appear to have affected the conduct of doctors and, certainly, not to the same extent as in the United States."

"However it is common to find in surveys reports and to a lesser extent in accountants' and auditors' reports disclaimers and provisos of such a nature as in some cases to water down the value of the advice given to negligent proportions."

"We understand that insurers generally are becoming increasingly wary of writing professional indemnity insurance. This is true in part."

US lawyers and media to draft code on reporting terrorism

By Colin Hughes

The association committees, newspaper publishers' Association and the other nine relations between the Bar and the Press, will be asked to report by next February on possible standards for a voluntary code.

Mr Fals Graf said: "We recognize that the competitiveness of the news business is such that without some kind of standard, it is odds-on someone will break an accord unless there are rules in which all can agree."

He hoped that the fear of public outcry would be sufficient for the media to restrain itself without enforcement measures, and said the Americans had much to learn from the British agreement between the Press and police authorities on maintaining silence during kidnapping cases.

He added: "If the media can be convinced that it is in the interests of free nations and of the terrorists' victims, then I think they will abide by it."

The main difficulty lay with television's visual impact, and he picked out interviews with American networks of the TWA crew with guns being held to their heads, as a prime example. He recognized, however, that agreement would need to balance public interest and censorship issues.

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Co-habitee laws attacked

Laws codifying the rights of couples who live together outside marriage would run the risk of legalizing polygamy, Mrs Justice Booth, a judge on the High Court Family Division, told the meeting yesterday.

Mrs Justice Booth, who recently chaired a Lord Chancellor's committee on family law, criticized proposals made at the meeting that the rights of co-habitees should be contained in a single law.

She believed it would seriously undermine the status of legal marriage. She asked: "If people choose not to marry, and therefore choose not to take on themselves the rights and duties of marriage, why should Parliament impose it on them?"

If a law for co-habitees were to mirror formal marriage in rights and responsibilities it could mean someone being married but separated, having one day-time lover, and another in the evening, depending on the person's "energy and versatility."

She accepted that it was very sad for those who ended a long unmarried relationship with no home, responsibility for bringing up children, and no means of support.

If people wanted to protect their property rights, security benefits and financial status, they had a simple solution: get married.

In a paper submitted to the session, Mr Robert Johnson, QC, chairman of the Family Law Bar Association, said existing legislation was "illogical and arbitrary for co-habitees whose relationship may accord with marriage in all but name."

The position was tenuous and insecure, and on illegitimate children the law appeared unequal and unfair, while women who contributed regularly to a joint household were denied legal redress on all fronts.

He said there should be innovative legislation to remedy the injustices and anomalies. "A cohabitation relation-

Worshipping at the shrine or consumerism

Damage claims against American companies involved in environmental disasters such as chemical leaks were "stupidly unmeritorious", an English solicitor told the association.

Mr William Falsgraf, who takes over as president of the association next month, said he will take up Mrs Margaret Thatcher's suggestion earlier this week that the Press and broadcasters should help cut "the oxygen of publicity" from terrorism, which many lawyers believe fuelled the TWA hijackers' recent successes.

Mr David Higgins, who was active in both the Flixborough and Thalidomide cases in Britain, criticized the American legal system for "worshipping at the shrine of consumerism."

In contrast, the British system struck a balance between justice for victims in damages and economic justice for industry.

If society at large felt that particular injuries should be compensated, then it should pay, except in cases where negligence was proved. The American use of strict or absolute liability on industry led to such huge damages awards that the system seemed unable to cope.

Mr Michael Harvey, QC, former member of the British Legal Aid Appeals Committee, criticized the Food and Environment Protection Bill.

Court decisions 'pose dilemmas for doctors'

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Recent decisions of the courts, and the adversary system, pose a serious threat to the patients in Britain. Dr John Havard told the association.

"Not infrequently the clinical and ethical dilemma arises as to whether resuscitation should continue in circumstances where irreversible brain damage may already have occurred."

To this now has to be added the legal consequences of continuing resuscitation, which can be far more expensive than allowing the patient to die.

In one case involving an award of more than £250,000, Dr Havard said, Lord Denning implied that it was unfortunate that the patient had been resuscitated.

The patient suffered a cardiac arrest after the administration of an anaesthetic and the doctors had fought to resuscitate her. They were successful, but not before serious irreversible damage had occurred.

Dr Havard, who is immediately past president of the British Academy of Forensic Scientists and a barrister, said: "It is a

success, in an adversarial trial were devised to establish facts and protect witnesses' rights, not to deal with conflicts of scientific opinion. They allowed important evidence to be unintentionally concealed because the expert witness might not be asked the right questions."

But under the civil law system in most other European countries, only those experts in the subject matter concerned were allowed to give evidence.

Appeal offer to miners

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Scottish miners dismissed during the strike are to be allowed personal appeals to their colliery managers. It was disclosed yesterday. The decision heralds a considerable relaxation in the area's headline approach which has hitherto meant that none of the 203 pitmen sacked during the dispute has had his case reviewed.

It also indicates that the National Coal Board may have had second thoughts about its outright opposition to a report by a House of Commons select committee calling for local

reassessments and a national review.

The decision was relayed yesterday by Mr John Loudon, the new area manager, to Mr Mick McAuley, president of the Scottish area of the National Union of Mineworkers.

The deal, reached after two meetings between the union and the board, lays down that the new process will be outside agreed conciliation procedures and that none of the dismissed men can be accompanied in his appeal interviews by other dismissed pitmen or lawyers. NUM officials may be present.

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The pay scales

SENIOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

	Current salaries	Salaries w/e 1 July 1985	Salaries w/e 1 March 1985	Numbers in post at latest available date
Senior Grades of the Higher Civil Service				
Head of Home Civil Service	51250	63125	75000	1
Per Sec to Treas (note 1)	51250	60825	70000	
Sec of Cabinet (note 1)	51250	60825	70000	22
Sec	51250	60825	70000	
Second Per Sec	42000	48500	55000	15
Dep Sec				
on promotion	38500	38325	40000	126
after 1 yr grade (note 2)		38250	42000	
Under Sec				
on promotion	29500	30875	31000	499
after 1 yr grade (note 2)		31000	32500	
after 2 yrs grade (note 2)		31750	34000	

NOTES:
1. It is also Head of the Home Civil Service.
2. Deputy and Under Secretaries will be credited with existing seniority.

Senior Officers of the Armed Forces

	Current salaries	Salaries w/e 1 July 1985	Salaries w/e 1 March 1985	Numbers in post at latest available date
Admiral at the Fleet	51250	63125	75000	1
Field Marshal				
Master of the RAF				
Admiral	45500	52750	60000	20
Air Chief Marshal				
Chief of the GCHQ	36500	36250	42000	32
Chief of the GCHQ				
Chief of the GCHQ	28500	31750	34000	153

Judiciary

	Current salaries	Salaries w/e 1 July 1985	Salaries w/e 1 March 1985	Numbers in post at latest available date
Lord Chief Justice	64000	69500	75000	1
Master of the Rolls	58500	63750	69000	
Lord of Appeal	58500	63750	69000	13
President of the Court of Session (Scotland)	58500	63750	69000	
Lord Chief Justice (N Ireland)	57000	63000	62000	
President of the Family Div	57000	61500	66000	25
High Court Judge	51250	55525	60500	
Senior Circuit Judge	36000	37750	44500	102
Chief Soc Sec Commissioner (England, Wales, Scotland and N Ireland)	36000	40250	44500	
Pres and Vice Pres (England, Wales, Scotland and N Ireland)	36000	40250	44500	
Judge Advocate General	33000	38750	44500	20
Pres Soc Sec Appeal Trib				
and Med Appeal Trib				

Train driver blamed for death crash

A train driver who failed to react to warning signals is blamed in a government report today for a crash which killed three people and injured 68.

The crash happened last December when a passenger train plunged into the back of an oil tank train at Eccles, Greater Manchester. The driver, Mr Edward Croxford, aged 36, was killed instantly.

The report suggests that he may have missed two warning signals because his body had not adopted to day working after a period of night shift.

The train passed a caution and a danger signal at about 60mph before hitting the other train which was travelling at about 10mph, says the Department of Transport reports.

Judge killed

Mr Justice Marcus Cole, aged 63, one of Seirra Leone's most senior judges, died in a road accident after being picked up at Gotwick airport.

Correction

On July 5 we incorrectly reported that Mr Stephen Gold and Mr Robert Schifreen had elected trial by jury on charges of computer fraud. The charges were brought under section 1 of the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$20, Belgium D 10, Canada \$20, France FF 100, Germany DM 100, Greece Dr 100, Italy L 100, Japan ¥1,000, Spain Ptas 1,000, Switzerland Sfr 100, USA \$20.

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port, Sheffield

To anyone present at the day of June 19 last year, the riot involving thousands of police and pickets did occur. But to those who followed the evidence in court no. 2 at Sheffield, the prosecution seemed doomed from early on. The evidence against the individuals in the dock seemed to substantiate the prosecution's opening, with dramatic descriptions of the weapons collected from the case, stumbled on the collapsed into a series of traps that the police seemed to have set for themselves.

Great weight was put on a video film of the events and a jury saw 400 still photographs. But lawyers for the defence were able to counter with their own pictures which showed the scene where they claimed to be at the time of arrest.

Many of the police officers from forces throughout the country who followed the admitted that parts of the statements had been dictated to them by a South Yorkshire detective. One defence barrister called it "the worst example of this century in this country that the police appeared to have been told to make entirely false statements in parts."

In one of the most dramatic moments, the jury was told that the defendant, a former anti-racist, had been told to sign a statement which was not his own. The jury was told that the defendant had been told to sign a statement which was not his own.

Lawyers for the defence argued that it was not a question of whether the defendant should have signed a charge, but that they should have been told of not having already signed their name for a public hearing.

Gregory during the trial. The jury was told that the defendant had been told to sign a statement which was not his own.

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Household insurance cost soars in wake of rising inner city crime rate

Householders in inner cities will have to pay up to 100 per cent more this year to insure the contents of their homes because of a rising tide of thefts and burglaries.

All the big insurance companies are reassessing their rates after many of them suffered large losses in household insurance.

One of the highest, Guardian Royal Exchange, this week raised its inner city rates by up to 50 per cent. Conversely, householders in country areas where crime figures are much lower will find their contents insurance bills going down.

Among the areas hardest hit by the premium increases are London, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham.

Last year the insurance companies paid out £200 million in claims for thefts, floods and subsidence - four times the 1979 figure.

Mr Michael Auld, chief information officer for the Guardian Royal Exchange, yesterday said: "The ever-increasing number of burglaries in the cities and big towns has given us little option but to

adjust the scales. London comes top of the crime list, followed by large areas of Liverpool. But country areas which will benefit will be East Anglia, Devon and Cornwall."

The Commercial Union has a broad list of five categories for household contents insured for £15,000. In descending order of cost they give the following examples:

1: London - most of the inner areas, Croydon, Southall and Ilford. The annual cost is £225.

2: Most of Liverpool, areas of inner Manchester and the West End of London. Annual cost £165.

3: Much of inner Birmingham, Darford, Enfield, the inner conurbations of Glasgow, Leeds, as well as Romford, Taverham, Warrington and Wigan. Annual cost £137.50.

4: All the outer city areas, plus Hemel Hempstead, Milton Keynes, Stockport and Watford. Annual cost £90.

5: The rest of the country, where the basic cost is £75. Jersey is cheaper still, with an annual rate of £57.50 per household insured for £15,000.

Some insurance companies require people living in the

highest risk area to install door and window locks before they will consider them.

Prudential Assurance, who are Britain's largest insurance company, with 3,000,000 policy holders, led the way towards increased premium rates at the beginning of the year. Again, the most expensive insurance areas are central London, certain areas of Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow, which pay nearly twice as much as the next category, consisting of the outer areas of the same cities. Their prices range from a top premium of £225 per annum to £45 for East Anglia and the West Country.

"Like the other companies we were obliged to put up our rates in the top areas by anywhere between 50 and 100 per cent at the beginning of the year."

A list compiled by the Association of British Insurers shows that in 1979 insurers paid out £48.2 million. In 1980, this increased to £75.6 million, and by 1983 it had shot up to £171.2 million. When it went up by a further 16 per cent to £201.1 million, companies felt they "had to act".

The system, pioneered in a test programme in the South-west in the past 18 months, is based on technology developed at the company's research laboratory at Martlesham Heath, near Ipswich.

A small television camera focuses on the picture to be sent. The electronic signals from the camera are processed into sound and sent along a telephone line. An electronic adaptor at the receiving end converts the sound into picture form.

Called Imtram, (Image Transfer), the system was installed last spring in Frenchay Hospital in Bristol. Other hospitals in the area tested the system, which has proved successful in enabling doctors

to see the results of X-rays and body scans quickly.

The designers say: "Many small hospitals, although equipped with their own X-ray machines, turn to their district hospital for expert interpretation of the pictures or have to wait for the consultant's next visit. In urgent cases, the pictures, or patient's notes, would normally need to be sent by messenger or the patient transferred by ambulance."

After the picture has been sent, using a technique called

slow-scan television, which takes about 30 seconds to build up a high definition picture, the sender can use the same telephone line to talk to the diagnosing consultant or doctor at the other end.

Diagnosis in a fraction of the time it would normally take and at a fraction of the cost is the object of the system. The basic system costs about £10,000, which could quickly be recovered in savings on patient transport and doctors' consulting time.

The British Heart Foundation, which announced the research programme yesterday, said about 2 per cent of the annual toll of 140,000 Britons who die prematurely from heart disease were afflicted by the condition.

"There are only two sources. Bent prison officers who supply drugs to prisoners are in a small minority, and are strictly dealt with when discovered."

"The other source is from visitors, who obviously are not adequately searched. I should have thought that they could be prevented from having physical contact with prisoners who have been jailed for drug offences."

"I just cannot understand why the Home Office does not take steps. I am sure it should be possible to deal with it," he said.

Smith, of Lake Lock Road, Stanley, near Wakefield, west Yorkshire, was jailed for three years after he had admitted two offences of possessing hard drugs. The court was told that he had a long list of convictions for drug offences, and officers who raided his flat in March found heroin, cocaine, morphine and other hard drugs.

"I used to think that when a man convicted of drug offences went to prison it meant that at least for the time he was there he would keep off drugs," the judge said. "But I have been told by a drug squad officer that it is common for people in prison to get drugs and that even hard drugs are readily available."

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Lord and Lady Olivier (left), Lady Redgrave and Sir John Mills at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, yesterday for a thanksgiving service for Sir Michael Redgrave, who died last March (Photograph: Chris Harris). Report, page 14.

X-rays by phone lines could save lives

By Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

Lives and scarce hospital resources could be saved by the extensive use of a device designed by British Telecom to transmit X-ray and body scanner pictures by telephone line.

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By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

About 16,000 children are being admitted each year to private hospitals, but few private hospitals have staff specially trained to nurse children and less than 40 per cent have a resident doctor for emergencies, the National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital yesterday said.

The association said it was receiving "more and more inquiries from worried parents faced with the decision of whether to have private or NHS treatment for their child".

It said private hospitals needed to provide more specially trained children's nurses; better cover by paediatricians; and more resident staff.

"The independent sector needs to develop an agreed policy for children similar to that agreed for the NHS."

"They are good at allowing parents free access, sleeping accommodation near the child and they welcome parents being involved. But against that is the fact that children are not just small adults."

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By David Hewson
Arts Correspondent

Broadcasting unions are preparing for a long and bitter fight against cuts outlined by the BBC yesterday which will reduce the scope of local radio, privatize many of the corporation's services areas, and further introduce casual staff in the BBC's programme production departments.

But the moves, outlined by the BBC board after a weekend of talking about how to deal with a £58 licence fee, have left the corporation's Conservative critics bemused. "If they had done this last year, there would never have been a Peacock committee or all the fuss about the licence fee," one Conservative back-bencher said.

The corporation has succeeded in finding room for all of the £350 million cuts made necessary by the failure to win its claimed £65 licence fee, and discovered a further £53 million of economies which may be turned into money to pay for a new Radio 1 VHF channel and daytime television.

Government sources said yesterday that if the BBC applies for a new VHF channel, Radio 1 could be broadcasting in stereo within a year, ruling out the possibility of the corporation having to replace Radio 2's VHF output with the more popular programmes of Radio 1.

But the eventual effects of the rest of the organizational cuts and changes proposed by the corporation have yet to be clarified. Broadcasting unions, in a joint statement, did say, however, that the changes could lead to the eventual breakup of the BBC and a recipe for widespread industrial unrest.

The trade unions have been given no detailed breakdown of where the job losses will fall. At least 2,000 posts will be affected by the corporation putting various services such as catering, cleaning and security to outside tender, and it seems likely that the new private employers will take on fewer people than the BBC now employs.

The remaining 2,000 people to be made redundant could be found throughout the corporation.

£32,000 owed by couple with 52 credit cards

An unemployed couple ran up debts of almost £32,000 by juggling around with 52 credit cards, London Bankruptcy Court was told yesterday.

Mrs Laurie Harkness, aged 34, said after her public examination. "I could have gone on for years using one credit card to pay off another."

Mr James Harkness, aged 32, inherited £26,700 from his mother in 1979. It was then that the couple built up their huge stocks of credit cards.

By 1984 all the money had gone.

The couple began to use the mountain of cards to pay the bills.

Mr and Mrs Harkness, of Porchester Court, Porchester Gardens, London, said that their combined debts of £31,799 were all due to credit card and finance companies.

Wodehouse tops poll among book collectors

By Christopher Warman

It is the sort of news that would lead Bertie Wooster to put on his yellowest socks and old green homburg and go into the park to do pastoral dances.

His chronicler, P. G. Wodehouse, has been adjudged the most widely collected author in the United Kingdom in a poll conducted by Book and Magazine Collector, a monthly publication for the rare book enthusiast.

In the competition, (offering £1,000 of rare books) readers were asked to name the authors and subjects they collected and guess the five most collected authors in Britain today.

Wodehouse received most votes from the 1,500 entries, followed by Agatha Christie, Ian Fleming, Graham Greene, and Charles Dickens.

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What can be done about them? The use of insecticides against the larvae or adults is unlikely to reduce midge populations significantly for even a short period and this type of "spray gun" entomology would be strongly opposed by the environmental lobby because of the danger to the fragile Highland ecosystem.

A predator, parasite or pathogen might be discovered for use in a "biological control" programme. Breeding sites

could be effectively reduced by adequate drainage or land filling.

However, chemical repellents are generally effective and widely used, although electronic anti-mosquito devices are of no value. Moreover, buildings can be midge-proofed by using insect screens on the windows. New holiday developments should be sited as far as possible from midge breeding grounds, and preferably in open areas, as midges cannot fly in even moderate breezes.

Head felt children 'not in danger'

Mr Alec Askw, the headmaster in charge of a school, told Land's End where four boys drowned, told an inquest at Penzance yesterday that he saw a group of children making their way down a cliff.

But because he thought there was no immediate danger, he sent a girl aged 12 to fetch the while he organized a souvenir photograph.

Mr Askw, aged 61, headmaster of Stoke Poges Middle School, Uxbridge, Middlesex, had taken a party of 51 children on an adventure holiday in Cornwall. The party was accompanied by five adults.

On the fourth day of the inquest, the coroner was told that the party arrived at Land's End at about 3.15 pm on Bank Holiday Monday, May 6. Mr Askw told the children they must follow Mr Robin Harrington, a teacher, to the cliff-top. They could also visit a gift shop, he said, but he also warned them: "Do not go near the edge and please do not run."

The children were at that stage not getting near the cliffs which he knew were there from a previous visit.

The children then started to spread out.

He went down to the cliff-top and added: "Eventually I went far enough down to see Heather Price and some other children". The coroner asked him where that was. He replied: "That is at the rock bottom."

He told the coroner: "I thought they were too far away

Boxer not guilty of assault

A Welsh boxer, Colin Jones, aged 26, was cleared yesterday of a charge of grievous bodily harm after punching Mr Emmanuel Pace, a bridegroom during his stag night party in Gorseon, near Swansea last September.

The jury at Swansea Crown Court found that he acted in self defence after a public house brawl. His brother, Kenneth, aged 36, was also acquitted on charges of assault and grievous bodily harm.

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Failure to halt drugs in prisons criticized

A crown court judge criticized the Home Office yesterday for failing to stamp out the illegal supply of drugs in prison.

Judge James Pickles, sitting at Huddersfield Crown Court, said that the Home Office was aware of what was going on. "It is horrifying that they don't do anything about it," he said.

Earlier, he had been told that Teresa Graham Smith, aged 34, told a doctor at the Leeds addiction unit he had been supplied regularly with hard drugs while serving a prison sentence for burglary and possessing drugs.

Smith, of Lake Lock Road, Stanley, near Wakefield, west Yorkshire, was jailed for three years after he had admitted two offences of possessing hard drugs. The court was told that he had a long list of convictions for drug offences, and officers who raided his flat in March found heroin, cocaine, morphine and other hard drugs.

"I used to think that when a man convicted of drug offences went to prison it meant that at least for the time he was there he would keep off drugs," the judge said. "But I have been told by a drug squad officer that it is common for people in prison to get drugs and that even hard drugs are readily available."

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Figures will be in autumn White Paper

SOCIAL SECURITY

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, denied that the Government had tried to conceal figures for what were described as gains and losses in the social security review plans by Mr Ray Hattersley, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, during question time in the Commons.

Mr Hattersley maintained that DHSS civil servants had been told to destroy documents containing the relevant figures immediately after Mrs Thatcher denied such figures existed.

He asked why she pretended the figures for gains and losses did not exist, now that the DHSS conceded it did possess them.

Mrs Thatcher replied: Illustrative figures will be published at the right time when decisions have been taken on the White Paper. No effective figures could be published until that time.

Mr Hattersley: If the figures had only this minor importance, why were they withdrawn from civil servants on the instructions of the department for destruction immediately after she made her dubious statement to the House a month ago?

Mrs Thatcher: I made it clear that the time to publish a range of figures was when decisions had been taken on the structure at the time of the publication of the White Paper. Other figures would be purely speculative. I note he has nothing more significant to ask.

Mr Hattersley: The Prime Minister must know she is wholly unconvincing when she tells us that the DHSS called in a paper and had it shredded for figures which were wholly speculative.

Is it not more likely to be the case that she wanted to suppress these figures because they demonstrated that under her proposals 1,800,000 families will lose housing benefit altogether and 600,000 families will be denied supplementary benefit?

Mrs Thatcher: He will recall that when Mr Kinnoch was asked about his figures he said: "I am not going to put a figure on two or three years hence."

If we wished to conceal figures we would hardly have undertaken to give an illustrative range of figures on the White Paper this autumn.

Wave power research being wound down

ENERGY

Research work costing £12 million over a number of years had convinced the Government there was no possibility of cost-effective energy being produced by wave power in the United Kingdom, Lord Gray of Codrington, Minister of State, Scottish Office, said during question time in the House of Lords.

Answering a question on the viability of such a power source, he said: It is unlikely that wave energy generators, except possibly on a very small scale such as navigation buoys, will be cost-effective in this country and it is appropriate to round off our research in this sphere, although we will be receptive to any realistic new ideas which can lead to major cost reductions.

Viscount Hanworth (SDP): There is a wave generator being constructed in Norway on the lines of our own research. There is an advantage in keeping in being a small research team which can quickly take advantage of any break through.

Lord Gray of Codrington: We are sceptical of the figures produced by the Norwegians. We think they are over optimistic. We will certainly not set aside any new ideas if they are seen to be genuinely cost-effective.

Viscount Montgomery of Alamein (C): Is there a future for power generated from wind sources?

Lord Gray of Codrington: Yes, we are very interested in a number of sources which combine wind and wave and my figures tell me that we can expect, post the year 2000, for large production turbines, costs per kilowatt hour of something between 2.5p and 3.5p, which is a competitive figure.

Busy week before MPs start recess

NEXT WEEK

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Social Security Bill, Interception of Communications Bill, and Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Bill. Lords amendments. Yorkshire Water Authority Bill, second reading. Tuesday: Debate on Government motion on changes to immigration rules. Wednesday: Motion for the summer adjournment. Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill, all stages. Thursday: Motions on social security benefits. Friday: Summer adjournment motions.

The main business in the House of Lords will be: Monday: Debate on television proceedings in the House. Oil and Pipelines Bill, second reading. Tuesday: Finance Bill, second reading and remaining stages. Wednesday: Transport Bill, committee, fifth day. Thursday: Debate on European air transport policy. Debate on Nicaragua. Friday: Social security and other orders.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order and other Northern Ireland Orders.

Reform of wages councils defended

PM's QUESTIONS

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, defended in the Commons the proposal to abolish minimum pay rates set by wages councils for those under 21.

The decision (she said) announced by the Employment Secretary (Mr Tom King) yesterday will improve the employment prospects of young people and will be a further step towards relieving the burden of regulations on small businesses.

Sixteen wages councils have been abolished since 1969 - 14 by Labour Governments.

She was replying to Mr Thomas Torney (Bradford South, Lab) who said an representative of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers many of its members came under the wages councils.

Mrs Thatcher's Government (he added) after creating mass unemployment is raising that mass unemployment to cut the standard of living of thousands of young workers.

Members of my union know their conditions will be worsened by what she is doing.

Ransom policies

Mrs Thatcher indicated in the Commons that she agreed with Mr John Hume (Foyke, SDP) that the existence of insurance policies for kidnapping and could encourage the kidnappers in his terrible work.

Mr Hume had said: In the light of Mrs Thatcher's statement to the American Bar Association that no ransom would be paid to kidnappers in this country, why has the Government never taken action against insurance companies in the City of London who conduct a multi-million pound business providing insurance cover against ransom by kidnappers.

He added that every kidnapper in this country and in the Republic of Ireland had involved such policies.

Home ownership

The number of people having difficulty in meeting their mortgage payments was still under 1 per cent, Mrs Thatcher said when the issue of repossession of homes was raised during question time.

Mr Robert Wareing (Liverpool, West Derby, Lab) said 11,000 people had their homes repossessed last year because they did not pay their mortgages. Forty per cent of them went into arrears because of unemployment.

Would Mrs Thatcher (he asked) care to define to the house and to those 11,000 people the term "property owning democracy"?

Racial harassment

Mrs Thatcher condemned both racial harassment and those who jumped to conclusions at the invitation during question time of Mr Neil Thorne (Ilford South, C) in whose constituency an Asian woman, Mrs Shamira Kassam, and her three children died in a fire at their home in Ilford last Saturday.

Mr Thorne asked: Will she condemn all racial harassment and also condemn those who jump to conclusions about the issues for advance of police investigations, particularly in the Kassam case in my constituency?

Mrs Thatcher replied: I gladly join him in unreservedly condemning all racial harassment. It should not take place in a country like ours and if it does it must be dealt with.

In reference to that particular case, I agree it is a matter for investigation and not those who jump to conclusions.

Peers' holiday

The House of Lords will rise for the summer recess on Wednesday, July 31, when it will sit at 11 am, and return on Monday, October 14, a week before the Commons.

Pig farmers must bear cost of disease

ANIMAL HEALTH

Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, remained firm in his determination not to contribute to compensation to producers of pigs slaughtered under the Pig Diseases Eradication Scheme, in spite of pressure from both sides of the House.

Mr Jopling said that £25.3 million had been paid to owners in compensation for slaughter of pigs; £21.5 million in 1983; £3.4 million in 1984 and £30,000 so far this year.

The Pig Diseases Eradication Fund had also paid about £3.7 million for disruption costs, but it was not possible to give a total for farmers' losses during the campaign.

Mr Clement Freud (North East Cambridgeshire, Lab) will be sharp on the matter referred by the Government has a contractual obligation to bail out the industry.

In the select committee report were the words: "It does not appear that the Government has a contractual obligation to bail out the industry."

Mr Robert Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton, C): Will the minister accept the obligation which the whole House knows falls on him and the responsibility of the select committee? He has a statutory duty to take an effective interest in the prevention of animal disease for the benefit of the whole country, not just agricultural producers.

Is it right for the Government totally to escape the consequences of what the agricultural select committee called "at least a failure in communications and at worst maladministration"?

Mr Jopling: This scheme was started at the express wish of the industry and on the absolute understanding that it was to be producer-financed. The £6 million was an estimate. The Ministry has contributed £3 million in veterinary and administrative resources and laboratory testing.

In the select committee report were the words: "It does not appear that the Government has a contractual obligation to bail out the industry."

Mr Robert Maxwell-Hyslop: You are wrong.

Mr Frank Haynes (Ashfield, Lab): I want to know what effort the Government is making to stamp out the disease. That is what my farmers want to know.

1.8% cereals price cut takes effect

AGRICULTURE

The European Commission's abatement of 1.8 per cent in cereal prices following the failure of the EEC Council of Agriculture Ministers to reach agreement on cereal prices again, would be applied in Britain, Mr Jopling said during question time.

Mr Jopling said the Government had no present intention to do that. But there was in being a rule under the guarantee threshold arrangement that this year there should have been a 5 per cent reduction so there was a strong argument that there should be a cereal price cut this year, though he wished it were greater than 1.8 per cent.

Mr David Harris (St Ives, C): The failure to reach a decision is disastrous for the Community. What will happen about storage because there is a record amount of grain in intervention storage here, and a record of cereals planted and about to be harvested.

Mr Jopling said a record harvest in this country was not certain. But there had been a change in the attitude of the council of ministers and the commission.

Mr Brynmor Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture, said the situation was desperate. Would Mr Jopling confirm that the commission reckoned that the profit margin on cereals in the Community was between 20 per cent and 30 per cent and that this year the analysis of stocks would be 10 million tonnes higher than last year.

That is not the case (he asked) that the situation is desperate and that the cereals will be less profitable and ministers less enthusiastic?

Mr Jopling said he had been the most robust minister in the council of ministers in arguing for reduced prices. He had been the only council member consistently arguing for a cereal price cut by the four or five per cent implicit in the guaranteed threshold. He would continue to argue.

UK must step up its exports to China

TRADE

The Government should fight hard against a ban by COCOM (the coordinating committee on East-West trade) on export of products of no military significance to China, Mr Kenneth Warren (Hastings and Rye, C) chairman of the Select Committee on Trade and Industry said in the Commons when opening a debate on trade with China, on the estimates for 1985-86. The committee toured China recently.

He said Britain was well down the list of OECD countries trading with China. Japan and the United States were supplying two-thirds of China's incoming goods and services. Shopping lists of Chinese requirements had been given to the committee in every city and area it had visited, in its extensive travels.

The committee was somewhat dismayed at the Department of Trade and Industry's statement that it would be some time before arrangements for providing soft loans could be finalized. There was no time left.

Mr Stanley Crowther (Rotherham, Lab) said the British Government took a holier-than-thou attitude and never stepped into the shoes of the rules of international trade whatever others did. He was not urging Britain to break the rules but he wished it was as expert at bending the rules as others were.

Sir Peter Emery (Hounslow, C) said Britain was the only major country in the world which did not provide soft funding for the Chinese.

Mr James Wallace (Orkney and Shetland, Lab) said a lot more could be done in Britain's embassies. They should try to find people who were not only skilled linguists but who had a certain commercial nous.

Mr Richard Page (South West Hertfordshire, C) said there was evidence that the Japanese were offering 30 year loan terms, seven year grace periods and 2.7 per cent interest rates.

More tax cuts needed

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during Commons questions that tax cuts remain a Government priority.

Mr Michael Brown (Brigg and Cleethorpes, C), raising the issue, said: With over 40 per cent of tax revenue coming from those on below average incomes, would Mrs Thatcher agree that if we are to help the low paid, then tax cuts must be the priority in her deliberations?

Mrs Thatcher: Yes. We have put up the tax free allowances and thresholds in one time by 20 per cent in real terms. There is more to be done, because some 40 per cent of pensioners come into the range of income tax and, as Mr Brown already said, many on below average earnings pay far too high income tax.

Plan to help pupils who fear school

A mother whose son suffers from "school phobia" is setting up an association to help other children who are in fear of the classroom.

Mrs Suzanne Newman's son Oliver, aged 12, is to be taught by a tutor at his home, Charnock Lane, Cheltenham. His condition has been recognized and accepted by Gloucestershire education authority, which pays for his home tuition.

Mrs Newman, aged 37, said yesterday: "Since Oliver's plight was revealed, I have been swamped with letters from other parents who believe their children have the phobia."

She is planning to start an association of parents in the same predicament.

Llewellyn charge

Dai Llewellyn, aged 39, a company director of Paradise Walk, Chelms, south-west London, was remanded on bail to October 1 by Clerkenwell magistrates yesterday after pleading not guilty when charged with a drink-driving offence.

The charge was brought by a police officer who said Llewellyn was driving a car on the M11 at 100 mph when he was stopped by police on the 10th of July.

On board the car were two children, aged 10 and 12, who were taken to hospital with injuries. Llewellyn was also charged with driving without insurance.

'Dangerous' trend in Whitehall security

By Tony Samstag

The Government's approach to security in the Civil Service was described by the National Council for Civil Liberties yesterday as "liberal" and "dangerous" in its civil rights implications.

The claim was made by Miss Sarah Spencer, acting general secretary of the NCCL, when announcing the publication of a new booklet which she said was the latest step in a campaign to draw attention of the public and MPs to "an illiberal trend in Civil Service security procedures: in particular, a new 'loyalty code' and revised security procedures for investigating 'subversives'."

The code was issued by Sir Robert Armstrong, the head of the Civil Service, earlier this year after the acquittal of Mr Clive Ponting, the Ministry of Defence official tried under Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act for leaking a confidential document related to the naval war in the Falklands.

The NCCL objects to the code on the grounds that it offers Civil Servants no option but to resign if they are given an instruction they believe to be morally wrong: it is therefore "authoritarian in its approach and... will not prevent similar cases arising in future when such a conflict arises between duty to ministers and duty to parliamentary democracy."

Objections to the new procedures, which were announced in April, centre around revised terms of reference embracing not only Civil Servants but employees of British Telecom, the Post Office and workers on government contracts, preparing the ground "for a repeat of the earlier Civil Service purges of the late 1940s and early 1960s," the NCCL argues.

The revisions also widen the definition of "subversive" activities to include political and industrial activities; the Security Commission, by contrast, limited that definition in its 1982 report to the intent to overthrow the parliamentary government by violent or other unconstitutional means.

Security considerations must also apply under the new procedures to anyone who "is, or has recently been, sympathetic to or associated with members or sympathizers" of groups deemed to be subversive, or who "is susceptible to pressure from such organizations or groups."

Such procedures put anyone who found himself accused of being a security risk in the position of the target of "the proverbial wife-beating question," Miss Spencer said. The Government had to understand that it was not making Civil Servants apologetic "simply by sealing their mouths and trying their hands."

Mr John Ward, of the First Division Association, which represents officials in senior grades, said that a draft code of ethics intended to define the moral obligations of Civil Servants more precisely had been approved and was now circulating among other Civil Service unions.

The Purgings of the Civil Service (NCCL, 21 Tabard Street, London, SE1 4LA, 95p plus 25p p&h).

Christian values needed 'to aid economic growth'

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Economic growth is a necessary condition for tackling injustice and deprivation in society, according to a report published yesterday by a group of Anglican clergymen.

The report, a collection of essays by two bishops, an industrial chaplain, an engineer and a businessman, asserts that economics and business cannot be autonomous but must be governed by Christian values.

The market economy is not necessarily incompatible with them, however, according to the



Geoffrey Smith

Two opinion polls yesterday put Labour in the lead, while the Conservatives in third place. One was conducted by Gallup and published in the Daily Telegraph; the other by Marplan was in The Guardian. Coming on top of the party's improved performance in the Brecon by-election, these polls confirm that Labour is truly back in the game.

The party has made a rapid recovery since the end of the miners' strike, and the possibility that it may even win an overall majority at the next election can no longer be excluded - although it is not so long ago that such a statement would have been regarded as unduly rash by many Labour MPs and by not a few members of the Shadow Cabinet.

This improvement in Labour's fortunes has been brought about partly because it presents a less threatening face - with the defeat of Mr Scargill the extremists do not look so powerful and - partly because of Mr Kinnoch's pleasing personality and partly because of disenchanted with the Government's spending restrictions on public services. But it has not come about through a surge of public confidence in Labour policies.

Halfway through a Parliament, that does not matter. By-elections are not about changing governments. They tend to be glorified referendums on government policies with the opposition benefiting from a natural inclination to protest unless it looks even more repellent. Labour's achievement over the past few months is that it has ceased to repel.

Shortcomings of Labour policies

But if it is to win the next general election it will have to attract as well. It will have to convince the country that it could form a credible government. Indeed, I suspect that one of the principal issues in that campaign will be whether Labour would be worth the risk.

It was significant that in a major speech this week to the Wessex Young Conservatives Sir Geoffrey Howe focused almost entirely upon the shortcomings of Labour policy. Sir Geoffrey may not be the most lively performer in the House of Commons, but he is one of the most astute political strategists in the Government.

He selected three areas of critical choice before the country: foreign policy, individual freedom and the economy. In each of these there is a specific doubt that Labour will have to resolve before it can command confidence as a potential government.

The doubt in the foreign field concerns defence. On the European Community, in spite of Sir Geoffrey's forebodings, I suspect that Labour, now that it is no longer seeking British withdrawal, may become closer to the instincts of the British public. By the next election Mr Kinnoch may be speaking rather like Mrs Thatcher at the last one: as the voice of the awkward member.

Rights of trade union members

But on defence I do not think Sir Geoffrey was exaggerating when he said that the dramatic unilateral action threatened by Labour "could call into question the survival of the Alliance itself". It is one thing for such Nato members as Norway and Denmark to refuse to have nuclear weapons on their soil. But for such a leading member as Britain to get rid of American nuclear risk is a completely different matter. In the field of individual freedom the key question for Labour is whether it intends to withdraw any of the rights accorded to members of trade unions by the present Government's legislation. The role of trade unions in the economy is a legitimate subject of public debate. But the general public would be affronted if the rights of individuals within their unions were to be circumscribed at the behest of union bosses.

On the economic front, Labour will have to persuade the voters that it could pay for its programme. For the moment that question is not pressing because the programme has not been presented in full.

But Labour suffered heavily last time from not having a convincing answer to the question: "Where will you find the money?" The party cannot afford to look vulnerable on this, any more than it can on the other two critical questions. If it is to appear ready to return to office at the next election.

Telegraph hoaxed over purge of school books

The Daily Telegraph was hoaxed on April Fools' Day into reporting a purge of sexist and racist books from the library of a Roman Catholic primary school, in North Kensington, London, the Press Council said today.

It upheld a complaint by Mrs Anne Evans, of Ranelagh Gardens, Stamford Brook Avenue, west London, that the newspaper published an inaccurate report about an alleged purge, and that a correction in a further report and a letter the next day were not an adequate remedy.

Mr John Izicki, the paper's education correspondent, reported that the library had to be closed after an inspector ordered the removal of many of its books. The purge lasted some weeks, and the headmaster had resigned.

In a follow-up the next day, Mr Izicki quoted Mr John Cullinane, the headmaster, as saying that no such order had been made. There was a reference to the letters column, where a letter from him explained that his resignation was occasioned by a change of job.

In its adjudication the Press Council said that the newspaper was hoaxed. It promptly published a corrective letter, but its editorial correction was presented as a follow-up. This should have been clearly identified as a correction and should have included an apology or explanation.

The newspaper ought to have explained promptly that the writer had been misinformed. The Press Council said that it was improper of The Sun to endorse policies permitting general job discrimination against homosexuals.

To that extent, it upheld a complaint by Mr Brian Palmer, of Appach Road, Tulse Hill, south-west London, who had complained that it was improper and extremely offensive for the newspaper to advocate, in an editorial, discrimination against homosexual people, and to encourage employers to discriminate.

The council also upheld a complaint by a security guard injured in a bank raid, against the Kent & Sussex Courier, that it was improper to publish his address, thus placing him and his family potentially in further danger.

BR breaks London to Cardiff record

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

are normally restricted.

The train was on charter to the Welsh Tourist Board and Welsh Development Agency, which are keen to see a daily 90-minute service between the two capitals to boost tourism and industry in Wales.

But BR said a fast daily non-stop service was "not on" at present because there was insufficient traffic. A spokesman said BR would certainly look at it if Welsh tourism and industry continued to expand.

On board the train were parties of disadvantaged children from England and Wales enjoying a day out as guests of the principalities.

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Sudan rebels cut air links and tighten grip on south's capital

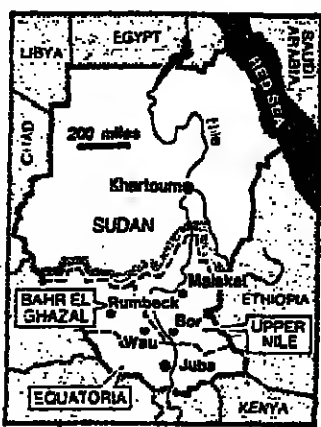
From Paul Valley
Khartoum

All flights into Juba, capital of the southern provinces of Sudan, have been suspended after rebels shot at two aircraft about to land at the international airport there. As a result the city, which has been without road, rail and river links for more than six months, is entirely isolated from the rest of the country.

The ban on flights has been made by the Sudanese Pilots' Union after the first attempt by the secessionist Sudanese Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) to carry out its threat to consider even civilian aircraft legitimate military targets. This week a light plane had one of its engines shot away and a Transarabian Boeing 707 had its fuselage raked by machine-gun fire.

The isolation of Juba marks a new stage in the deterioration of the rule of law in the three southern provinces which are plagued by escalating tribal skirmishes, as well as clashes between the Sudanese Army and the rebels, who now surround most of the Government garrisons in the south.

The Boeing 707 is understood to have been chartered by the Sudanese Army to fly down troops forming part of a 4,000-man relief column for the garrison at Bor which the



SPLA claims to be on the point of taking.

Towns like Wau, Malakal and Rumbek have been under siege for almost six months. Recent reports from Rumbek indicate the efficacy of the rebel stronghold on the town.

In Rumbek the hospital is without drugs, all shops are closed and the market places are empty. Many houses are deserted. The closure of a Verma Sisters' leper colony, after the missionaries pulled out because of the fighting, has left the streets full of lepers. Malnutrition has increased by 300 per cent, according to expatriate doctors. All food, which is controlled by the army garrison, is now four times the normal price.

The road round the town is mined and plans by the United States charities, Catholic Relief Services and World Vision to run in a convoy with \$500,000 worth of food have been abandoned.

Such plans have been coming under increasing criticism from the rebel leader, Colonel John Garang, who regards them as a battering ram designed to break the sieges, using the international agencies "to do what the Sudanese Army has proved unable to do".

In any case, reports indicate that the loyalty of the Sudanese armed forces cannot be taken for granted. SPLA radio regularly boasts of defections from the government forces to its own ranks. The last expatriates to leave Wau when the United Nations closed down its operation there reported that the entire police force in the town had joined the SPLA.

The army is now resorting to arming certain southern tribes in an attempt to contain the rebels. This week thousands of Madi tribesmen from the Ugandan border are said to have been given weapons to fight the SPLA, despite the questionable success of a similar move earlier in the year. Then the Government armed the Mundari tribe, the traditional enemies of the Dinka people from whom the



The Sudanese leader, General Abdul-Rahman Swar al-Dahab (left), greets Colonel Mengistu of Ethiopia before the two men began private talks yesterday at the OAU meeting.

SPLA draws most of its support.

In fact, the Mundari lost the battle and have migrated en masse with their 200,000 head of cattle to Juba. Now the people of Juba, the Bari, are demanding that they too be armed to ward off the Mundari.

The increased number of weapons about means that cattle raids in the south have now escalated into cattle wars.

The fighting is on a sufficient scale to have prevented planting in many areas of the south. This comes on top of little rain and a bad harvest last year which have produced pockets of starvation. But perhaps the greatest threat to the region comes from an outbreak of rinderpest, the most devastating of all cattle diseases.

There are more than five million cattle in the area and

the disease could kill 80 per cent of them.

There is little the Government representatives in Juba can do about this. They have no money, not even to pay their employees, no fuel and there is even a shortage of paper.

The south is bisected by the Nile, the second largest river in the world where the potential for hydroelectric power and clean water schemes is considerable. Beneath the ground

is what is thought to be the highest oil reserve in Africa. Chevron, which invested \$90 million in developing the field, estimates a possible output of 50,000 barrels a day producing an annual income of \$250 million a year.

Yet in Juba hospital there is no water and no power. Those who require an injection are expected to bring their own needle and syringe.

Leading article, page 13

Mengistu denounces 'selfish' bankers

Addis Ababa, (AP, Reuters) - The Organization of African Unity opened its 21st summit yesterday with a speech by the Ethiopian leader, Colonel Mengistu, denouncing international banking institutions as "weapons of pressure and intervention".

The summit, scheduled to continue until tomorrow, is the first of the 51-nation OAU to be devoted to Africa's economic problem. Previous summits have focused on political issues.

Colonel Mengistu, a Marxist, said developed countries "have sadly enough, become oblivious to their international objectives and missions, thereby pursuing their selfish policies."

"These institutions have been reduced to covert weapons of pressure and intervention to infringe on the sovereignty of states," he said. "Their prescriptions are false remedies..."

Colonel Mengistu said Africans must insist that foreign creditors reduce Africa's debt, which is expected to exceed \$170 billion by the end of the year. He also suggested the rescheduling of loan repayment periods.

Delegates are expected to adopt the Addis Ababa declaration, which calls on governments to revise their agriculture policies because food output over the past five years has grown by only 1.7 per cent against average population growth of 2.8 per cent.

EEC builds bridge to beat the rains

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The EEC is setting up "immediately" a road bridge to transport desperately needed food into western Sudan to make up for supplies lost since the vital rail link between Port Sudan and the famine areas was washed away in nine places.

British and Dutch engineers are believed to have succeeded in repairing the line, which has been the only way of carrying into the interior the large stocks of food now waiting at Port Sudan. But, according to information being sent through to Brussels, there is a real danger the rains will undermine the track again.

So the road bridge, initially to transport 6,000 tonnes of sorghum, is being set up and the

European Commission is paying for new lorries to be sent out from EEC countries - Britain, West Germany, Belgium and Denmark - are now ferrying 5,000 tonnes a month to the famine area. Italy is to send another aircraft at the end of the month and the United States is expected to send in five more. This would make it possible to bring in more than 10,000 tonnes a month.

But about 400 tonnes are needed each day to keep a million people alive and the road and rail links are essential. The US is sending 10 locomotives to help ensure that breakdowns on the train services are kept to a minimum.

Eureka project gets 17-nation send-off

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Eureka, the European advanced technology co-operation programme, was officially launched early yesterday by ministers of 17 European nations meeting in Paris.

In a final joint communiqué, issued a little after 1am, the 17 members of the EEC together with Spain and Portugal, plus Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, Austria and Norway, announced "firm support" for Eureka, still loosely defined as "a selection of civil projects chosen in various fields of high technology" and agreed to set up a working group to prepare a second interministerial meeting on Eureka before November 15. Germany has agreed to the next meeting.

Although no detailed decisions were taken as to the future structure and definition of Eureka, most participants felt that it had been an extremely good and worthwhile meeting with a lot of imaginative and interesting ideas, thrown up during the 10-minute exposés given by each of the 17 participants, but without sufficient time to co-ordinate those ideas.

The British proposals for a market-led approach, with projects concentrating on commercial exploitation of scientific

and technological research rather than on the research itself, were well received. Remembering Britain's initial cool response to Eureka, when it was still seen as a mere French counter-initiative to the American Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), some participants were surprised by what they now considered a positive, well thought out, "very European" contribution by Britain.

The meeting agreed that the present Eureka secretariat, headed by M Claude Arnaud, former French Ambassador to Moscow, should continue its work in preparation for the next Eureka meeting, working in close liaison with the host country, West Germany, the current president of the European Council, Luxembourg, and the European Commission.

A group of high-ranking officials of each of the 17 participating nations is also "to contribute to the preparation" of the meeting.

Each participant has been asked to make every effort "to encourage and promote the elaboration of concrete projects by industry and research institutes of different countries as well as devising suitable methods of funding".

Europeans fail to reach Star Wars agreement

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Senior officials from the seven Western European Union (WEU) countries have failed to agree a response to President Reagan's Star Wars programme. Sources deny that another row between Britain and France lay behind the failure at a meeting in London this week.

The governments of Britain, France, West Germany, Italy and the Benelux states, which have revived the moribund WEU, have given officials the job of co-ordinating reaction to Washington's invitation to participate in Star Wars research. Britain wants to reply

positively; the French want to say "Non". Sources say the split is over French insistence that the seven co-ordinate policy on the Strategic Defence Initiative as a whole - not just on the research.

DEFENCE TALKS: The British and American defence secretaries will meet in Washington, probably next Monday, to clarify the basis on which British organizations may participate in Star Wars research (Rodney Cowtoll writes).

During the last few weeks Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, and ministry officials have consulted industry and research establishments and now have a fairly clear idea of Britain's potential contribution.

Mr Heseltine will seek clarification from Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, on whether British firms would be sub-contractors, or be awarded prime contracts, whether America would waive constraints which limit foreign involvement in defence programmes, to what extent there will be a two-way flow of technical information; and what limitations will be put on commercial exploitation

THE NEW MIDI HAS SHOWN COMPETITORS THE VALUE OF BEDFORD'S SPECIALISATION.



Often with the launch of a brand-new commercial vehicle buyers initially stay away in droves.

They're hesitant to take on the new against the well-tryed.

Not so with Bedford's new Midi 1-tonner. Because not only is the Midi already out-selling the German and Japanese equivalents, but as a new entry is also challenging long-established British makes.

The Luton-built Midi has been as enthusiastically received by motoring journalists as by buyers.

One writer, who drove four Midi vans out of the 16 model range, accurately predicted in the April issue of 'Marketeer',

"A favourite is just what this new van, the Bedford Midi, will become...It is, absolutely, a little cracker. It is a joy to drive..." The authoritative 'Transport News' concurred that the Midi was "...sturdy, stylish and well-designed..."

As registrations of Midis ably demonstrate, Bedford's position as Britain's biggest commercial vehicle specialists means vehicles better specified to the real needs of operators and buyers alike.

While on top of the Midi's launch success has come increased demand for the Bedford TL truck range.

A recent review of 7½-tonners in 'Transport Engineer' summed up our

own intentions with, "The widest choice that is in tune with operational needs is Bedford's."

Bedford as part of General Motors Truck & Bus Group, the world's largest specialists, have vast resources to draw upon. Planned are even more upsets for our competitors.

And better vehicles for users.

BEDFORD 
Now the driving force.

Bedford Commercial Vehicles, Division of General Motors Overseas Commercial Vehicle Corporation, P.O. Box 3, LUTON, LU2 0SY.



Caspar Weinberger: Clarification for Britain.

Israel gives thumbs-down to Palestinians chosen for Washington dialogue

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

King Husain meets Thatcher today

King Husain of Jordan, who has been actively pursuing a Middle East peace settlement, will discuss the latest developments with Mrs Margaret Thatcher in London today (Henry Stanhope writes).

But officials are discounting suggestions of a fresh initiative. King Husain, they say, is on a private visit, primarily to see the Royal Tour.

plained that Washington was not seeking Israel's opinion or approval, but merely wished to keep it in the picture.

Both the Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, and the Foreign Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, have made it plain that the names included are totally unacceptable to Israel.

The list, apparently headed by Mr Khaled al-Hassan, a leading member of Fatah, was submitted to the Americans by King Husain of Jordan for approval in advance of a planned meeting later this month or early next month between the joint delegation and the US Under-Secretary of State, Mr Richard Murphy.

It was transmitted to Israel on Wednesday by the American Charge d'Affaires in Tel Aviv, Mr Robert Flaten, who explained that Washington was not seeking Israel's opinion or approval, but merely wished to keep it in the picture.

While they are not in a position to veto any American decision, both Mr Peres and Mr Shamir apparently have sought to influence it by spelling out publicly Israel's unmitigated disapproval.

Mr Shamir, who has taken a far more uncompromising position than Mr Peres against the proposed US-Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, told the meeting of his Likud Party on Wednesday night he was astonished that "a terror organization like that (the PLO) should be partner for dialogue with the United States, which stands at the head of the fight against terror."

The names on the list submitted to Israel have not been officially disclosed, but five of the seven names believed to be on the list were given wide currency in the Israeli media yesterday. These were, in addition to Mr al-Hassan: Mr Salah Tamari, a member of Fatah and one of the PLO's senior commanders in Lebanon before Israel's 1982 invasion; Dr Nabil Shaath, a member of the Palestine National Council (the Palestinian "parliament in exile"); Mr Hanna Siniora, editor of the Arab Jerusalem daily *al-Fajr*; and Mr Faiz Abu Rahme, a former head of the Chamber of Advocates in the Gaza Strip.

● The Israeli Foreign Ministry has denied a report, carried by Israel radio earlier this week and widely quoted, that Mr Elihu Lauterpacht, an expert on international law at Cambridge University, has given a negative assessment of Israel's chances of winning in the event of international arbitration over the future status of Gaza.

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Iceberg fear puts dash for Riband in jeopardy

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Britain's challenge for the Blue Riband Atlantic speed record is threatened by bad weather and drifting icebergs.

The nine crew member of the 6 mph Virgin Atlantic Challenger are waiting anxiously for a break in the weather to make their Atlantic dash.

"It is just our luck that the conditions on our route are the worst for this time of the year in 60 years," Mr Richard Branson, main sponsor for the challenge, said yesterday. He is head of the Virgin records and airline organization.

"There are between 300 and 400 icebergs drifting up as they drift, and they are our greatest worry. There is thick fog, and we could suffer the ripple effect from a hurricane developing to the south."

The Challenger's departure from New York is set provisionally for Thursday. Mr Branson, who will be among the crew, said: "It all depends upon the weather. We will take calculated risks, but I enjoy life too much to want to take stupid risks. Our departure deadline is mid-August. If we don't get away by then, we will have to try next year."

The crew of the 65ft Challenger are aiming to make the 2,900-mile crossing in a about three days. The Blue Riband record of three days, 10 hours and 40 minutes - an average of 35.59 knots - was set in July, 1952, by the liner *United States*, making its maiden voyage.

The challenger is skippered by Mr Ted Toleman, a businessman, and the crew includes Mr Cathy Blyth, the inveterate adventurer, a reporter from the BBC *Tomorrow's World* programme, who will film the trip; a Royal Navy chief petty officer, and two Royal Marines.

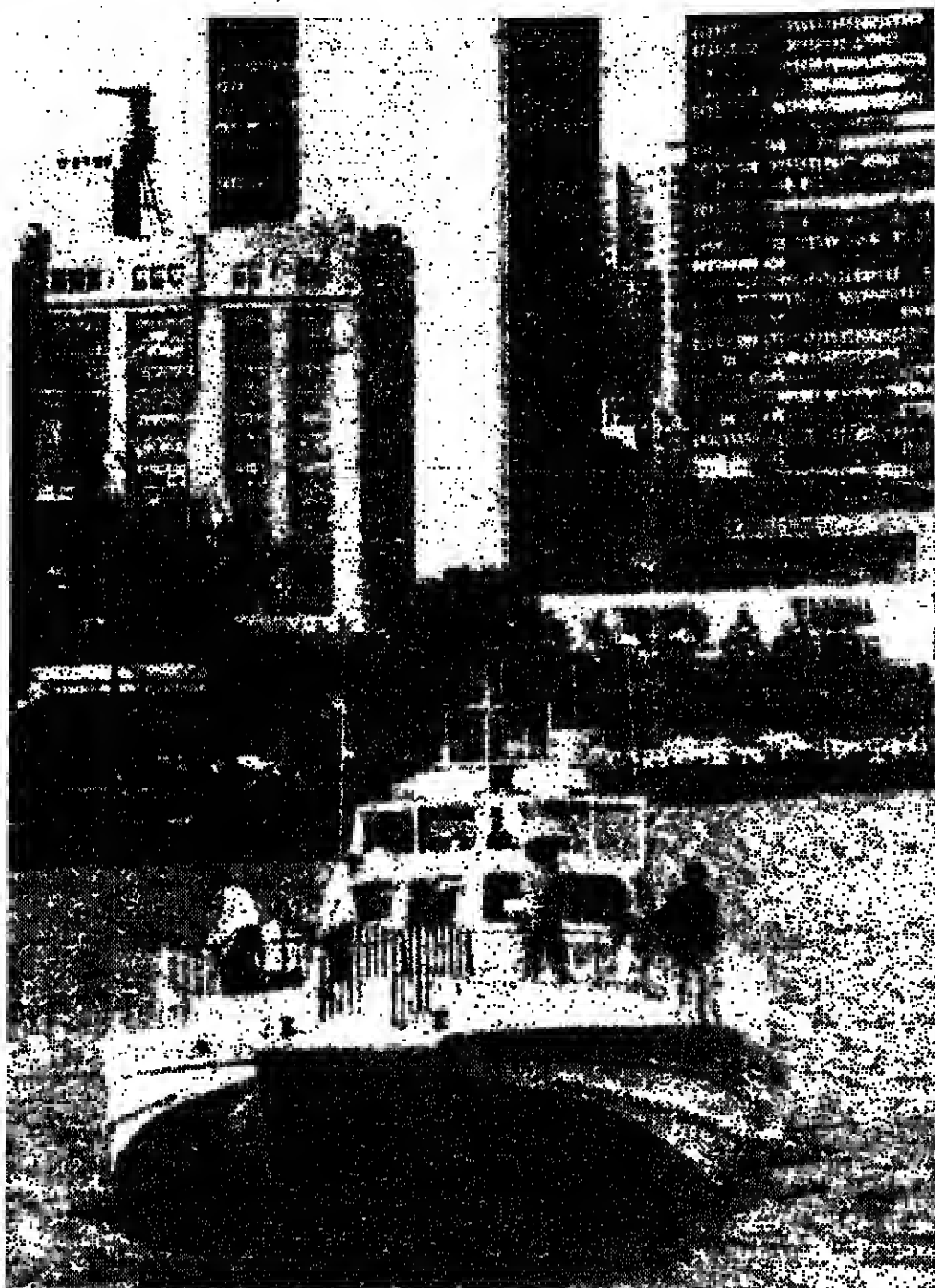
The boat's twin 2,000-horsepower diesel engines will consume 74 gallons of fuel and hour and refuelling stops are planned 550 miles out, and about 600 miles from the Irish coast.

The boat carries two spare propellers, in case of damage from debris, and a computer navigation system. Its progress will be monitored by an RAF Nimrod, and Royal Navy vessels will use the trip as a focus for part of an Atlantic exercise.

"It's rather comforting to know that," Mr Branson said. "If we hit something, the boat could go down in about 90 seconds."

The Blue Riband course starts at the Ambrose light tower at the entrance to New York harbour, and finishes at the Bishop Rock lighthouse on the Isles of Scilly.

The Blue Riband Title was first awarded in 1838. Since the



The Virgin Atlantic Challenger pulling into the Mid-town dock in New York, amid doubts about whether its attempt on the Blue Riband may be halted by bad weather.

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The Blue Riband Title was first awarded in 1838. Since the

1930s winners have been entitled to the Hales Trophy, presented by the British Businessman and MP, Mr Harold Hales. If he is successful, Mr Branson will claim the ornate cup.

The Virgin Atlantic Challenger is an aluminium catamaran, built by Cougar Marine, and launched in May by Princess Michael of Kent at Hamble, Hampshire.

Mr Branson said: "As far as Virgin is concerned, this is a way of promoting the airline. It is not an indulgence. It is

costing us £2 million and we shall make a profit on videos and other rights. I've already sold the boat, and it will be converted into a gin palace."

● Ice watch: Provided he keeps south of 42 degrees latitude, Mr Branson should avoid meeting any icebergs this year (Our Science Editor writes). The US Coastguard International Ice Patrol in Connecticut said yesterday that that was the limit at which such hazards had been observed.

The patrol is keeping 244 icebergs under daily reconnaissance at present.

Ex-Caicos leader admits he took cash

Miami (Reuters) - Mr Norman Saunders, aged 41, former chief minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands, yesterday admitted accepting \$30,000 (£35,700) from US agents posing as drug smugglers, but denied ever having intended to carry through the deal.

Mr Saunders, who was taking the witness stand for the first time, said he played along with the smugglers in hope of financial benefit for his impoverished island chain, 575 miles north-east of Miami.

He said he never intended to allow the smugglers to ship tonnes of cocaine through the British territory of 8,000 people.

11 life terms for Mafia boss

Palmi, Italy (AFP) - Giuseppe Piromalli, a leader of the Calabrian Mafia, was given 11 life sentences for as many murders in a trial here of 61 members of the local underworld which logged a total of 11 centuries in prison terms.

It took police nine years to hunt down "Don Peppino" Piromalli. When he was arrested at his home in February, 1984, he allegedly told them: "Don't touch me. You are arresting a saint."

Church escapes on technicality

Portland, Oregon (AFP) - A court order requiring the Church of Scientology to pay \$39 million (£27 million) to a disappointed convert was nullified here on technical grounds.

Miss Julie Christofferson, Tidbourn, from Portland, had accused the church of promising she would become more intelligent and her sight would improve if she joined the movement.

Terror sentence

Frankfurt (Reuters) - A woman who worked for the US Army in West Germany was jailed for eight and a half years for helping to plan bomb attacks on American bases and arms depots. Gisela Dotz, a member of the Red Army Faction, was arrested in March, 1983.

Charge dropped

Rod Stewart, the British rock star, will not have to face a drink-driving charge in Los Angeles, but the local prosecutor's office has recommended he be charged instead with following another vehicle too closely.

Great Wall gift

Peking (AP) - Pakistan gave 200,000 yuan (£49,000) to help China repair its Great Wall. Pakistan will become the first foreign country to have a monument erected at the Wall in honour of its gift.

Russians out

Monrovia (AFP) - Liberia has broken off diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and asked its embassy staff to leave within 72 hours over alleged espionage activities, the Foreign Ministry said here.

Soviet apology

Oslo (AFP) - The Soviet Union officially apologized for an incident in the Barents Sea last week when a Soviet Navy vessel cut a seismological cable from a Norwegian research ship.

Town cut off

Valenciennes (Reuters) - Metal workers virtually sealed off this northern French town with piles of old tyres and iron girders in protest at the planned closure of a workshop employing 800 people.

Iberia inquiry

Madrid - Iberia opened an inquiry and apologized after the pilot of a regular flight from Madrid to Lisbon landed at the Monjito air base used by Nato outside the Portuguese capital, instead of at Portela airport.

Baghdad flights

Cologne (Reuters) - Lufthansa will resume flights to Baghdad today after suspending them on May 31 because of the Iran-Iraq war. Flights to Tehran, halted in mid-March, will remain suspended.

Miners killed

Lusaka (AP) - An underground rock fall killed five miners in the Nkana mine of Zambia's Consolidated Copper Mines. Two miners died and seven were injured in a similar incident at Mufulira last week.

Paris posting

Washington (AP) The US Senate confirmed the appointment of Mr Joe Rodgers, a Tennessee businessman, as Ambassador to France.

Kohl attacks 'sewer journalism'

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, of West Germany, appearing yesterday before a committee of the Parliament in his home state of Rhineland-Palatinate, said: "Sewer journalism has tried to criminalize politically legitimate efforts to aid democratic parties."

The committee was investigating allegations of illegal donations by business to political parties in the state while Herr Kohl was its Prime Minister from 1969 to 1976 and later. He became Federal Chancellor in October 1982.

Herr Kohl told the committee that "all parties had transgressed" in Rhineland-Palatinate in connection with the wish of donors to remain anonymous. The allegations, which the committee was investigating, are that the donors made their contributions to "front" organizations, such as research institutes, because such contributions could be set against tax.

The front groups passed the money to the political parties. But Herr Kohl said under questioning that he had no detailed knowledge of such transgressions. As party chairman in the state, he said, he has made "personal efforts" to secure donations from business for his party, the Christian Democratic Union, but was unaware of any irregularities in the way the money reached the party.

Herr Kohl was reported to have appeared "tense and nervous" at the beginning of his testimony. Some of his opponents in Bonn claimed that the Christian Democrats in Rhineland-Palatinate for months had used their majority in the state Parliament to prevent Herr Kohl being summoned before the committee, but that Press accounts of illegal donations became so incessant that the committee had no alternative but to summon him.

The Chancellor's remarks about "sewer journalism" suggested that he had decided to go over to the attack. Herr Kohl's supporters say that the allegations are based on the German equivalent of a "post-watergate" morality.

Shevardnadze and Howe to meet soon

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is expected to have his first meeting with the new Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, in Helsinki in August.

Mr Shevardnadze is likely to renew the request for Britain to raise the ceiling on the number of Russian diplomats in this country, which has been progressively lowered by the expulsion of Soviet personnel for spying.

The ceiling now stands at 39, three fewer than the number of British diplomats in Moscow. There is a suspicion in London that a power struggle between the Soviet KGB and the military intelligence organisation, the GRU lies behind the concern over numbers.

Mr Shevardnadze, who is due to have talks with the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, the day before his meeting with Sir Geoffrey, will be making his first trip outside the Soviet Union to attend the 10th anniversary meeting of states which signed the Helsinki Final Act on security and human rights.

Mr Vladimir Lomeiko, spokesman of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, said in Helsinki yesterday that the Final Act marked the high point of superpower détente during the 1970s.

The relaxation of tension had improved living conditions for most people in Europe, he claimed.

The White House said yesterday that Mr Shevardnadze has accepted an invitation to meet President Reagan after the UN General Assembly in September.

Reagan angered by Press speculation on health

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan has been seeing more visitors and is recovering steadily from his operation, but the White House has been irritated by what it regards as "distasteful" press speculation about his illness.

Mrs Nancy Reagan, whose stepfather was a doctor, has let it be known that she places high value on the tradition of confidence in the doctor-patient relationship. She told reporters on Tuesday that her husband was "fine", but refused to fuel the controversy now going on here about the failure to give the President a complete intestinal examination 14 months ago. "I go along with what the other doctors say," she said.

The Reagans have both been angered by the published speculation about the President's cancer by doctors who have not been connected with the case. Mr Reagan has watched much of this on television.

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said there has been a full and thorough presentation of the facts, and sharply denounced suggestions

that the President's cancer was more serious than disclosed. He refused, however, to release the pathology report on the tumour removed from Mr Reagan's colon.

Mr Reagan has begun taking liquid foods and said yesterday morning he was feeling "great". A medical bulletin said he was continuing to recover extremely well. His visitors now include Mr Robert McFarlane, his national security advisor, as well as Mr Donald Regan, the White House chief of staff.

Despite White House concern about the invasion of Mr Reagan's privacy, his illness has prompted thousands of Americans to have colon check-ups, and Mr Reagan said he was pleased at this.

The President spent much of the day in a chair reading or watching the series of old Bogart films now showing on television. He still intends to meet Mr Li Xiaonian, the Chinese President, during his state visit next week and will also be present at the banquet for him.

Greeks get new look at Trojan war

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The Royal Opera House is offering a large Athenian audience a rare treat tonight. It will perform a contemporary work about the Trojan War seen not from the point of view of Homer but, as it were, from the enemy camp.

Sir Michael Tippett, the British composer, cheerfully warned the Greeks that his opera *King Priam* was not the story of the *Iliad* they knew from school. "The *Iliad* was only about one tiny moment in the Trojan War," he said. "This is not about the wrath of Achilles. It is about the family of King Priam in the city of Troy and what happened to it as Troy went down."

Sir Michael, who celebrated his 80th birthday this year, will be watching tonight's Greek gala in the open-air theatre of Herod Atticus at the foot of the Acropolis, which holds an audience of 4,500. He said he was thrilled.

The Royal Opera House staged Verdi's *Macbeth* in the same theatre last night, and its four performances of the two operas here are the highlight of this month's celebrations to mark the proclamation of Athens as the cultural capital of Europe for 1985.

Botha offers return of Dutch fugitive

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa has told the Netherlands that a Dutch citizen recaptured by South African security police in disputed circumstances on July 9 will be handed over to the Dutch Embassy in Pretoria.

On Tuesday, the Dutch Government said that unless the man, Mr Klaas de Jonge, was returned within 48 hours, it would recall its ambassador. The ultimatum expired at noon yesterday.

Announcing his Government's willingness yesterday to return Mr De Jonge, the South African Foreign Minister, Mr F. Botha, regretted that the security police had committed a technical violation of the premises of the Dutch Embassy.

He also said that Mr De Jonge faced charges under the Arms and Ammunition Act and that The Netherlands would be expected to hand him back to face trial under an "irrefutable" principle of international law.

It was still not clear late yesterday when Mr De Jonge would be returned to the Embassy.

Police sources say Mr De Jonge is suspected of being involved in arms smuggling for the underground African National Congress.

The diplomatic row began when he escaped from two security policemen

Seven die in fresh Indian rioting

From Richard Ford, Delhi

Only 24 hours after the Indian Army withdrew from the western city of Ahmedabad seven people died and 55 were injured yesterday in a fresh eruption of vicious mob violence.

During hours of violent clashes and pitched battles, police are reported to have shot dead four people and three more were stabbed to death by rioters. Among the dead in the Daryapur and Kalupur districts of the city were a woman aged 75 and a police sub-inspector.

Shooting, bomb blasts, stabbings and rioting engulfed both areas for hours and the police were forced to fire at least 30 rounds when teargas shells, fired in torrential rain, failed to disperse the mobs.

Gujarat state authorities said that the violence began simultaneously, with rival gangs attacking each other and using rooftops to attack the police. More than 200 people have died in communal strife in four months, but the latest eruption has come after two weeks of relative calm.

Two thousand troops withdrew from the walled city at midnight on Tuesday after having been sent in when order collapsed as the police force and former Chief Minister became discredited by their attempts to deal with the protests.

A new Congress (I) Chief Minister, Mr Amarsinh Chaudhary, has moved swiftly in an attempt to solve the agitation by appointing two sub-committees to negotiate with the protesters and by bringing in a new police chief.

The disturbances began over increases in the number of places reserved in higher education and government administration for lower castes.

Talks to end the protest and a 43-day strike by government employees have failed to produce a settlement.

Body in torture case identified

San Andreas, California (AFP) - A decomposed body found near the isolated cabin which was the scene of mass murders and sexual torture has been identified as the founder of the San Diego chapter of the "Guardian Angels", a citizen anti-crime group.

The body of Robin Stapley was discovered near the house of Leonard Lake and Charles Ng in Calaveras County near San Francisco. Lake committed suicide in June after he was arrested for car theft. Ng, a Hong Kong-born former US Marine, fled but was arrested in Canada on July 6. The remains of 11 people have been found near the cabin.

thought to have established two submarine barriers. The southern one being between Iceland, the United Kingdom and Norway.

A third barrier of surface, submarine and air forces is located off northern Norway. If this assessment of Soviet intentions is correct, it would appear that they are seeking to counter the sort of operation which Nato tested in March last year in Exercise Teamwork.

They have a substantial number of submarines off southern Norway, and are

Italian award for Liverpool hero

Fondi, Italy (AP) - A Liverpool soccer fan, Mr John Welsh, was back in Italy on Thursday to receive an award for saving the lives of Italian fans during the Brussels soccer tragedy.

Officials at Fondi, a town between Rome and Naples, decided to honour Mr Welsh, aged 27, after hearing how he pulled many Italian fans to safety from the tangle of bodies at the Heysel Stadium during the May 29 football disaster.

The ceremony was arranged by Handfest, a sports and cultural association which aims to foster brotherhood between different nations.

The award is a bronze statue by the Italian contemporary artist, Domenico Purification.

Paying tribute to Mr Welsh, a Handfest spokesman said the award being presented for the first time, could go only to the "Liverpool fan whose human solidarity, expressed with spontaneous and natural simplicity, had set him apart from the criminal behaviour of other fans."

● BRUSSELS: A Belgian policeman described in court yesterday how he arrested a 19-year-old Liverpool supporter he believed was trying to steal his

Russian war games alert UK forces

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

British naval and air forces are heavily involved in monitoring a large-scale Russian exercise in the Atlantic and the Norwegian Sea. The crews of three British ships, totalling several hundred men, have been recalled from leave, and other ships have been diverted from normal activities.

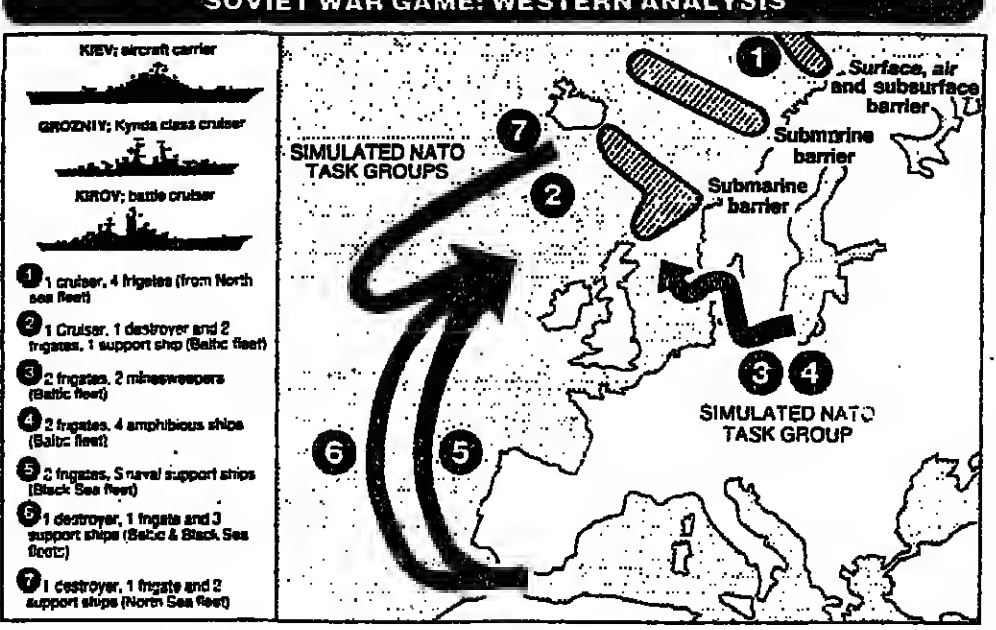
RAF quick reaction alert units are said to be flying about five times as many sorties as usual.

In three days they are reported to have flown 20 sorties and made 24 interceptions of Russian aircraft as they entered the United Kingdom air defence region.

There are estimated to be about 42 Soviet surface vessels involved, drawn from their Northern, Baltic and Black Sea fleets, and there may be almost as many submarines.

Nato sources said yesterday that there were indications that the 43,000-ton aircraft carrier, Kiev, accompanied by a Kirov-class nuclear-powered battle cruiser and perhaps eight or nine escort ships, would join the exercise from their base at

SOVIET WAR GAME: WESTERN ANALYSIS



Murmansk. This would constitute the most powerful unit involved.

The shape and purpose of the exercise became clearer yesterday.

The Nato sources predict that Russian forces in mid-Atlantic will come together and head north-east to simulate a Nato force seeking to reinforce the northern flank around Norway.

It is possible that other Russian units off Denmark, including amphibious warfare

vessels, will sail up the Norwegian coast to simulate a Nato amphibious landing such as, in war, might be carried out by the Royal Marines in the U.K./Netherlands Landing Force.

The purpose of the exercise would be to enable the Russian sea and air forces to test procedures for resisting such Nato actions.

They have a substantial number of submarines off southern Norway, and are

thought to have established two submarine barriers. The southern one being between Iceland, the United Kingdom and Norway.

A third barrier of surface, submarine and air forces is located off northern Norway. If this assessment of Soviet intentions is correct, it would appear that they are seeking to counter the sort of operation which Nato tested in March last year in Exercise Teamwork.

They have a substantial number of submarines off southern Norway, and are

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*Government fuel economy figures for Escort 1.6 diesel - mpg (litres/100 km). Constant 56 mph (90 kmh) 70.6 (4.0). Constant 75 mph (120 kmh) 48.7 (5.8). Simulated urban driving 51.4 (5.5).

†Ford computed figures.

Ex-Caicos leader admits he took cash

Miami (Reuters) - Mr. Saunders, 41, former chief minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands, yesterday admitted accepting \$50,000 (£33,700) from US agents posing as drug smugglers, but denied ever having intended to carry through the deal.

11 life terms for Mafia boss

Palma, Italy (AP) - Giuseppe Piromalli, a leader of the Calabrian Mafia, was given 11 life sentences for his role in murders in a trial here of his members of the local underworld which logged a total of 11 centuries in prison terms.

Church escapes on technicality

Portland, Oregon (AP) - A court order requiring the Church of Scientology to pay \$39 million (£25 million) to its disappointed members was nullified here on technical grounds.

Terror sentence

Frankfurt (Reuters) - A woman who worked for the US Army in West Germany was jailed for eight and a half years for helping to plan bomb attacks on American bases and arms depots. Gerd Durr, a member of the Red Army Faction, was arrested in March 1983.

Charge dropped



Rod Stewart, the British rock star, will not have to face a drink-driving charge in Los Angeles after the local prosecutor's office announced he had been released on bail following a 12-hour police custody.

Great Wall gift

Beijing (AP) - China's Great Wall of China is to be given as a gift to the Soviet Union by the Chinese government.

Russians out

Moscow (AP) - Soviet troops are being withdrawn from the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Soviet apology

Moscow (AP) - The Soviet Union has apologized for the death of a Polish pilot who was shot down over the Baltic Sea.

Town cut off

Madrid (AP) - A town in northern Spain has been cut off by a landslide.

Iberia inquiry

Madrid (AP) - A Spanish court is investigating the crash of an Iberia plane.

Baghdad flights

Baghdad (AP) - Flights to and from Baghdad have been suspended.

Miners killed

London (AP) - Two miners were killed in a coal mine in England.

Paris posting

Paris (AP) - A French court has sentenced a man to prison for a crime committed in Paris.

Forte on the warpath

Lord Forte has more than 800 hotels to his name – but one, the Savoy, has eluded him. Does he covet it merely out of personal ambition, as his rivals are now claiming? Pearson Phillips met the veteran fighter on his home ground...

It was when Lord Forte produced a letter from one of his rival hotel groups' chambermaids that I realized he was mobilized for all-out war.

We sat round a table at the informal conversational end of his large office overlooking Park Lane on the first floor of Grosvenor House. He is 76 and five foot four, but he has a way of making his younger, taller colleagues and associates seem like pale, small men. He is a walking caricature of himself, small, neat body topped by large, foreboding head. When I mentioned that I thought he said he had retired everybody present chuckled. His 40-year-old son Rocco, educated at Oxford University and the Harvard Business School, now officially "leading the team", must have been leading it from somewhere else.

For four years he has attempted to swallow up the Savoy Hotel Group, which includes Claridges, the Connaught, the Berkeley and a stately Parisian monument called the Lancaster. His own stock of hotels, run by his Trusthouse Forte empire in all corners of the globe, came to 808 at last count. But he wants those big London names.

It appears that almost anything goes in the battle to get them. "The Letter" is a case in point. His secretary was summoned. "Miss Chalmers. You remember that letter from the chambermaid in the Berkeley about their sheets? Find it for me."

He explained the circumstances. "That man, (the term he invariably uses when talking about Sir Hugh Wontner, long-time chairman of the Savoy, now retired but still a presence), that man had got up and said his usual piece about this awful Forte fellow with his milk bars and how he wasn't fit to run a first-class luxury hotel. And he had added something about how people staying in his hotels always got linen sheets, none of your cotton nonsense. Linen sheets, I ask you. As though we hadn't got plenty of linen sheets. I have slept in linen sheets since I was five years old."

'I tried to keep things on a fairly dignified footing'

"A few days later I got a letter from one of his chambermaids in the Berkeley saying that she had been rather surprised to hear all this, because she had been complaining for years about the state of their sheets, that they were invariably full of holes and she could never persuade the management to give her enough new ones. Ah, thank you Miss Chalmers, there it is..."

And there it was. A treacherous missive from below stairs, backward sloping writing on lined paper. "Some day I'm going to publish that. And we have a few other interesting things in the files, as well." In the course of our talk Miss Chalmers was periodically summoned to produce further bombshells.

Hostilities began back in 1981 with a Forte frontal attack. It was repulsed. Thanks to a

complex system of voting and low-voting shares, the Savoy faction were able to dig in behind a seemingly impenetrable barricade of trusts. Lord Forte and his men were left rampaging round the walls like the Greeks outside Troy, with 70 per cent of the share equity but only 42 per cent of the votes.

Since then it has been mostly psychological warfare. The battle erupted again last week when the Savoy took advertisements in the press to tell the world that any criticism of the group coming from Lord Forte was motivated by "frustration that his personal ambition to acquire control of the Savoy had been thwarted..." Is he really driven by this "personal ambition"?

He didn't like that advertisement. "Before that appeared I had tried to keep this thing on a fairly dignified footing. But now the gloves are off." To aid him in the fistfights he has hired a City public relations firm well experienced in the hand-to-hand techniques of the takeover game.

'Exerting control does not mean you need lose quality'

"No, it isn't my personal ambition to own those hotels. We have plenty already. In the Grosvenor House here we have what I believe is the finest hotel in London. It is earning more profit this year than all the Savoy Group hotels put together. But what I do want is to see them rehabilitated, properly maintained, flourishing as they should."

"The Savoy needs something like £10 million spending on it to get it back into its pristine state. All that lot can do is sell off property in order to keep afloat. Miss Chalmers... get me the list of properties that the Savoy Group has sold since 1981."

His public relations consultants have given him their advice. He should play down the milk bar angle and the string of 220 Little Chicks. He should emphasize the fact that he is already running successful luxury hotels.

But of course, his real problem is not the milk bar issue. It is his highly profitable chain of hotels managed on strictly controlled lines. There is a feeling that big groups maximising profits can turn living hotels into soulless catering machines, however much money they may spend on the carpets and the wallpaper, and however many awards they get from *Caterer and Hotelkeeper* magazine. That certain "je ne sais quoi" which patrons of the Savoy and Claridges expect can fly out of the window. What can he do to dispel that suspicion?

"I would suggest that people should look at some of the top hotels in our group. Why did Chirac give me a medal for what we have done to our Paris hotels since we took them over? When we first bought them the staff went on strike and marched through the streets. Terrible coaches will come here full of tourists... terrible British company". But look at them



Roaring Forte: no holds barred in the takeover battle

now, the George V, the Plaza Athénée, or the Tremolice. Full of life and people. And then go and look at the Savoy's Paris hotel, the Lancaster.

"Why did the King of Spain give me a gold medal for what we have done for the Ritz in Madrid? It was falling to pieces when we took it over. It had an occupancy rate of 42 per cent. Now it has gone up to 60 per cent. And the joke is that we have a letter in our possession from a Savoy manager writing to the general manager of the Ritz regretting that it was about to 'fall into the hands of an international chain', or some such phrase. Can you bring the Ritz letter, Miss Chalmers?"

"Why do people keep writing to me saying how much they enjoyed staying in our Hyde Park Hotel or here in the Grosvenor House? Why was the Grosvenor given five stars when the Savoy only got four?" Is it then possible to run a really great hotel in the top luxury class and still make a profit?

"We are doing it. Just because you exert control doesn't mean that you need to lose quality. Control in the kitchen means cutting out waste, not starving the guest in the dining room. We know all the profits we should be getting from menus and bars. We know the percentages of wages to turnover we should be getting. If we are not achieving the

figures, something must be wrong. We put it right. It's easy. "Take a side of smoked salmon. The way you cut it means the difference between making 10 per cent on your gross and 60 per cent. You can get either 20 portions out of it or 60. But the amazing thing is that the 60 portions will taste better, because they are fine and thinly sliced. I can't think of a hotel that isn't thinly sliced. The difference is skill. That is how we train and pick our people. They have to be dedicated, cheerful, welcoming and skilled. I don't want managers who arrive in time to eat their lunch, pick up their laundry and go home."

'I came to London with £400 and a loan for £2,000'

"I don't actually want to boast. But sometimes you have to state the facts. We have transformed the hotel and catering industry in this country. There was no one in this country before who could stand up against the great American chains, the Hiltons of this world."

"It is quite a story, you know. I came to London with £400, and a loan of £2,000 guaranteed by my father. Now I am told this business is worth £1,200 million. We haven't done that by giving people bad service. Just because you have strict management doesn't mean you can't have quality. Look at Marks and Spencers. Don't they give quality? Well, we are the Marks and Spencers of the hotel trade. We have built 30 new hotels, with between 300 and 350 rooms in each one. What have that lot over there ever built?"

But the Savoy is actually doing better now isn't it? It has been making profits.

"Yes, and do you know part of the reason for that? They took a manager from us, and he, in turn, has taken on another six of our people. He was an ambitious man, although I can't really approve of him having left us for the other side in the middle of our battle. But isn't it a funny thing? This great Savoy, this wonderful supernatural hotel, recruits staff from us, the portion control maniacs who aren't fit to run a hotel of top quality..."

Lord Forte has, of course, endured battles like this before and won. For a while he was at loggerheads with the Trust House chairman, Lord Cromwell, who inspired Allied Breweries to make a bid for the whole company. He defended that attack by using his own cash and any money he could borrow. The nitty-gritty of the cost of chairman's perks and other murky details were thrown into the public gaze on that occasion. His "gloves off" tactics do not appear to have changed.

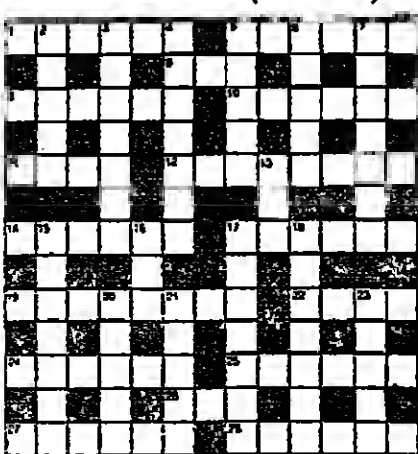
"I think we could probably save £1,500,000 by getting rid of all the accommodation and services that the board of the Savoy seem to enjoy. We would run the whole thing with one of our area managers. I don't have a flat in the Grosvenor House. I live at home. I've got a nice house, paid for with my own money. And I get my laundry done at home. It's quite good."

"Heaven knows what they say about me over there. But I can imagine. After all, I've got 70 per cent of their shareholding. Sooner or later this company will get the rest. I feel genuinely sorry for that man. He is six foot to my five foot four. And yet he is the one in the shadows."

"And do you know, his hotel is actually falling down? Apparently a bit of ceiling fell down the other day. Miss Chalmers. Bring in the note about the Savoy ceiling falling down..."

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 700)

- ACROSS
1. Judge (6)
 2. Benefactor (6)
 3. Over (3)
 4. Islam follower (6)
 5. Related (6)
 6. Disclaim (4)
 7. Co-ordinate (8)
 8. Highest (6)
 9. Toy bullet (6)
 10. Put up with (8)
 11. Ponder (4)
 12. Be cautious of (5)
 13. Scutecheon (6)
 14. Filled pastry dish (3)
 15. Choose (6)
 16. Summary (6)



- DOWN
1. Itinerary (5)
 2. Hunt cry (5,2)
 3. Console (7)
 4. Concrash (5)
 5. Hooked claw (5)
 6. Supervise (7)
 7. Beer (3)
 8. Patron's charge (7)
 9. Knight's title (3)
 10. Made glad (7)
 11. Volelike rodent (7)
 12. Rubout (5)
 13. Skilful (5)
 14. Lounges (5)

SOLUTION TO No 699

ACROSS: 8 Unprecedented 9 Nor 10 Crinoline 11 Pile 13 Fattest

DOWN: 1 Turn up 2 Spiral 3 Peaceful 4 Relief 5 Hero 6 Aitire

7 Advert 12 Imp 14 Fanning 15 Sun 16 Equine 17 Awful

18 Thrift 20 Maraud 21 Acting 23 Prop

Last night in sight for the man behind the Proms

Tonight the 91st season of Henry Wood Promenade Concerts starts at the Albert Hall. About an hour before, an exceptionally tall, silver-haired man in dinner-dress will enter by a side door after exchanging words with some of the queuing Promenaders.

A few regulars may recognize him as Robert Ponsonby, the BBC's Controller, Music, and thus the man responsible for the corporation's standards of serious music, its orchestras and, in particular, the Proms, but to most his name and face are unfamiliar. Once inside, the story is different. He will perform the ritual he has observed for the last 13 seasons, visiting conductor, soloists, orchestra, broadcasters, wishing them well and knowing many by name. For each of the 60 concerts the pattern will be repeated.

This is Ponsonby's last year as Controller. He leaves the BBC in November, though most of next season's Proms have been planned by him. At the age of 58, he had expected to stay at least another year in his office at Yalding House, a few hundred yards from the BBC's Broadcasting House headquarters.

"It was a surprise at the time," he admits, lowering his 6ft 6in frame into an armchair. "I hadn't expected to be asked to go a year early."

No one can give a satisfactory explanation for his departure. "Hierarchist manoeuvring" is one general theory. Gossip around the BBC suggests that the Corporation management wanted to ensure John Drummond as next controller, but could not expect him to wait two years until Ponsonby retired.

'Too much of a gent in a world of hustlers'

The official line? "After 13 distinguished years as Controller, Music, it was felt that it would be time for a change."

When Ponsonby took over from Sir William Glock in 1972, he found himself thrown in at the deep end, with no kindnesses – and not so much as a stick of furniture in this office. Drummond will find himself far better prepared.

For the last five months he has been talking to colleagues, writing reports and perhaps suggesting ways in which the splintered music department might be re-united under his Controllership, having been brutally dismembered three years ago when Ponsonby was robbed of effective control of Radio 3's overall output.

The tidal wave which Drummond's arrival is expected to cause throws some light on Robert Ponsonby's own tenure – on the style of his achievement and also on his personality. Ponsonby's urbane manner and quiet wit might be thought ideal for the traditional calm of music broadcasting, but dynamism and sparkle are the overriding qualities now sought in his successor.

Many express the view that he has been judged harshly for acting in the only way open to him at a difficult period in BBC history. Some accuse him of "lacking the killer instinct", of being "too much of a gent in a world of braggarts and hustlers".

However, his upbringing provided the solid musical base needed for what is arguably the most powerful job of his kind in Europe. At Eton he won all the music prizes, and after two years in the Guards took up an organ scholarship at Trinity College, Oxford, "where I read

English, not being good enough to read music".

After Oxford he worked simultaneously for Glyndebourne and for the Edinburgh International Festival, succeeding Ian Hunter as Edinburgh's Artistic Administrator in 1955, when only 29.

Five years of battling for money left him exhausted and he resigned from Edinburgh. After spells in the Bahamas and at the Independent Television Authority, he spent two years conducting and running the Scottish National Orchestra – invaluable experience.

The offer to take over as Music Controller at the BBC came after eight years in Glasgow. No one was more surprised than Ponsonby: "I had no knowledge of broadcasting and no formal musical training. Yet I was head of a staff which included leading musicians such as Robert Simpson and Hans Keller. Even the secretarial staff had music degrees."

Glock had been his own man, "dreaming up programmes beside the river at Marlow", as he puts it. Ponsonby resolved to follow suit, though in the more mundane surroundings of Yalding House.

This annoyed his staff in the early days, who had hoped for a more democratic Controller, but Ponsonby soon learned to take advice profitably, as his Prom record over the years confirms. He introduced ethnic music and brass bands, and the Proms ventured outside the Albert Hall to a wider range of venues.

National themes – French, Polish and, this year, American – have been a success in recent years.

How can Robert Ponsonby's achievement best be summed up? His devotion to new music is indisputable, although the main criticism, mostly voiced by agents and promoters vying for patronage, is that he has not gone far enough.

At the same time, his refusal to compromise has kept Britain's musical traditions alive when commercial orchestras are forced to play "concert pops" in order to survive. He has been energetic, too, in bringing lesser-known works by great composers out of the archives to a central place in the repertoire.

Mozart's version of *Messiah* tonight is a good example.

Fiona Maddocks



In the shadow of Sir Henry Wood: Robert Ponsonby

HANDING ON THE BATON

The Proms started on August 10, 1925, as an impromptu scheme for making "serious" music available and attractive to a larger public. The idea was not new. Concerts at which an audience could stroll informally at will had originated in Paris in the 1830s. They were introduced to England by Louis Jullien, a French showman and conductor, soon after.

The impresario, Robert Newman, found a backer in Dr George Cathcart, and the two chose the unknown 26-year-old Henry Wood to conduct. Until 1940 Wood acted as sole conductor, as well as planning all the programmes.

Though the earliest programmes attracted audiences with popular works, Wood introduced Sibelius, Rachmaninov, Scriabin and Schoenberg, never before performed in this country. Composer nights also became popular. Performances were at the Queen's Hall in

Langham Place. The BBC took over in 1927.

The Proms moved to the Royal Albert Hall in 1941. Sir Adrian Boult and Basil Cameron took over as conductors after Sir Henry Wood's death in 1944 until Sir Malcolm Sargent began 18 years as Proms conductor in 1948.

During the sixties, under Sir William Glock, the Proms repertoire was extended to take in medieval music, chamber music and then complete operas. Television broadcasting of the Proms started in 1947, and since 1966 Radio 3 has transmitted them in stereo. The concerts are estimated to reach 100 million listeners and viewers, in addition to those who attend the performances.

Last season the Proms attracted 200,000 people, the highest figure for some years.

Anne Whitehouse

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INCOME BONDS



FRIDAY PAGE

A new mood is sweeping the Women's Institute, traditional home of bottled fruit, as members opt for the more heady challenge of politics and sport, reports Caroline Moorehead

Last summer Audrey Clarke woke one morning to see her garden in the village of Surlingham in Norfolk covered in thick, sandy dust. She was prepared for this, because she had heard warnings on the news about sand on its way from the Sahara; but it caused her to think about what the wind can carry. When, a few months later, she heard a lecture by a man from Suezell Power Station and the subject of acid rain came up, she thought again about wind-borne pollution.

At much the same time, across the country in Wales, a piano teacher called Margaret Edwards was looking out of her back window over the fields to Betws Mountain and wondering whether the talks she had just been listening to on the radio about chemical pollution of the countryside could have anything to do with her seemingly untouched valleys.

Because both women are members of the Women's Institute, there was something they could do. When the next call came to their local institutes for resolutions to be submitted to the annual meeting, both women sent in suggestions about controlling the chemicals emitted from power stations. Margaret Edwards sent hers with soil samples from Betws Mountain, taken by a fellow member husband when the wind was blowing from different directions.

After some rewording, a great deal of background research at headquarters and much debate among the WIs at county level, the need to "control the emission of sulphur and nitrogen oxides from power stations in order to reduce acid rain" appeared as resolution two on the 1985 agenda. It was unanimously carried among the 6,000 women who attended this year's annual meeting in the Royal Festival Hall, once they had sung "Jerusalem" and voted to help drug addicts.

Technical, hard hitting resolutions on social and economic policy are not readily associated with the WI. Nor indeed is a festival of sports, yet one is to be launched tomorrow in the grounds of York University, when hundreds of women will be jumping, bowling, running and aiming their way to trophies and honours.

The sports are a recent idea, a deliberate decision to boost the membership among younger women - age of membership is a touchy subject - and fulfil the current target of one new member for every 10 existing ones. There will be a second festival in Abingdon, in September. Meanwhile an organizer has been appointed to cajole the ladies of Cambridgeshire into gliders, sailing boats and on to windsurfers, courts and courses. Since January some 2,000 have rallied to the call.

Sports are thus quite new. But the robust and well informed tenor of the annual resolutions are not. WI women have been debating contentious issues since the 1920s (1921, for example, saw firm resolves about women jurors, the principles of the League of Nations and the need for a Board of Film Censors).



All change at the WI: Jam-makers (right) in 1943 and today's members learning to swim in Cambridgeshire and glide in Hampshire

Gingering up jam ladies

They have spoken on hedges and railway hygiene, on local government and performing animals, on war relief and the last offices of the dead, and they can, and do, look back with some satisfaction on a pleasing record of reform and amendments guided and pushed by them on to the statute books. Some of this spirit is fostered at Denman College, the WI adult education centre near Abingdon, a handsome manor house where members come on three- and four-day residential courses throughout the year. (Some 4,500 students follow 240 courses).

In the main hall, above the delphiniums, the bowls of pink and yellow roses, the Tio Pepe and the petit-point footstools and cushions given by members, hangs a portrait of Lady Denman in old age, a gentle, somewhat wistful picture of the first chairman, known affectionately though with some awe throughout the 30 years of her tenure as Golden Eagle. She, rumour has it, first asserted her strength of character by playing golf and hockey in the great rooms of the official residence in Australia, where her husband was briefly General Governor.

I says much about Denman College that it is at all times more than 90 per cent full. Here women learn to preserve jam (not just the cooking, but the chemistry of bacteria too), to make silk flowers, engrave on glass and cook Italian food. But they can also study Virginia Woolf, Ancient Egypt and car maintenance.

Last week, some 30 were gathered for a course on industrial archaeology. Their lecturer, Trevor Rowley, an

extra-mural tutor at Oxford University, said he found his class "passive and malleable" compared to the Oxford undergraduates, but also extremely keen.

Exceptionally, last week's intake included two dozen aspirant national voluntary organizers, the high flyers of the WI, for whom a few last days at Denman provide the finishing touches to schooling in public speaking and group management. The youngest, at 23, was Marilyn Haines-Evans. She has a soft Welsh voice, has been a member of the WI since the age of 16, and says that she was once a shy person. "It has all brought me out quite a lot."

A course tutor agrees. Anne Stamper, 20 years a member, says the most rewarding aspect of the institutes is seeing the women who come to Denman, some of whom have never left away from home before, bloom in self-confidence.

To concentrate on the academic and scholarly side of the WI is certainly wrong now, as when it was founded in 1897 by a Canadian mother in Stone Creek, Ontario, whose baby died through contaminated milk, the WI exists to support and unite "country minded women".

Its backbone is in the countryside, the remote villages where there are few buses and much potential loneliness. It is no coincidence that it is in the North-east and Wales that members display most enthusiasm, nor that the first London WI opened only in May.

Members are not, for the most part, glamorous or overly ambitious; they do not belong among the Sloane



Rangers or the oasis of *Dynasty* at Dallas. But they are hard working, tolerant, responsible women, for whom the institutes mean acquiring knowledge and having a voice, and they take pride in the feeling that their resolutions, dreamt up humbly in the valleys, make their way via county groups and headquarters to the top, where they will be heard.

The WI is, furthermore, a voice of efficiency, and a style of organization born of a mixture of democracy, good housekeeping and practicality. At the top are graduates and research assistants, though most would tend to belittle honours in favour of unity and competence. The 352,000 members - it is a boast of the organization that were it a trade union it would be the sixth largest in Britain, twice the size of the National Union of Mineworkers - all belong to separate institutes (9,200 of them).

Their one duty is to set up and attend 11 meetings a year, beyond which they can country dance, play darts, bottle fruit or debate Wittgenstein according to local tastes - providing they keep to the rules.

"It is marvellous training," says Christine Usherwood, president of Radley WI in Oxfordshire and wife of a housemaster at the school. "Seventeen years ago I joined a terrifying lot of women in an extremely grotty village hall. It was soon friendly and fun and brought me contacts in the village. My standards began to go up. What I got out of it was sudden capacity to take on new things; now I know that I can organize people remarkably well. And you should see

the committee: no committee is as efficient as a WI one."

Women gain competence, and a sense of being able to cope and even, if pressed, to speak, to have views on economic policy and lace making and whether it is morally right to let acid rain destroy your grandchildren's heritage. But at Denman there is also much talk of how the WI really means friendship.

Anne Stamper says: "You feel that you belong. That wherever you go, you can knock on a member's door and say: 'I, too, am from the WI'." Wendy Thoroughgood, principal of the college, a genial, somewhat stately woman who was once matron to the Eton scholars, also sees Denman as a place where otherwise solitary women can find companions. The monthly journal *Home and Country* is full of letters, testimonials from lonely women whose lives have been transformed by the easy welcome of the movement.

One of the more engaging of the WI schemes is a kind of informal interflora system, organised through the WI's market groups - co-operatives of members selling home produce - whereby a member from a village in Kent, with a mother in Northumberland, can get another member from her mother's village to bake a cake and take it round to her on her birthday.

"Sometimes think it's all a bit like the Boy Scouts," says Christine Usherwood. "A bit comic, very worthwhile, nothing to do with church or politics. The greatest fun is being with a crowd of like-minded women - and if you don't like it, you needn't join."

but the high incidence of this condition in parsons and ships' captains to the vigour with which they grasped the rail on the pulpit or the bridge. However, a family history of similar troubles can be found in more than half the cases. A minority are related to epilepsy, coronary heart disease, TB, diabetes or liver disease secondary to alcoholism.

Patients must have the layer of fibrous material excised before the hand has been allowed to deteriorate to the stage where correction has become impossible without amputation of one or more fingers. With skilled surgery a good result can be obtained.

Early warning on cancer

As the case of President Reagan has highlighted this week, the colon and rectum are the most common sites for gastro-intestinal cancer. It tends to be a disease of older patients and the incidence rises after the age of 40 to a peak in the late 60s and early 70s. A family history of colonic polyps which are often premalignant is important.

The growth extends locally before it spreads through lymphatic or vascular systems to other parts of the body. This delay in secondary spread means that early treatment can be effective.

Screening at its simplest means digital examination of the rectum. In the United Kingdom patients should immediately report to their doctor if they have:

1. Rectal bleeding, which may well be painless, or if they pass blood with or on their faeces.
2. There is any change in bowel habit, or noticeable change in the occurrence of stools.
3. An increase in mucus secretion.
4. A feeling that defecation is incomplete.

Patients must realize that haemorrhoids and other bowel diseases frequently co-exist, so they should always see their doctor if they are suffering from piles.

Dr Thomas Stuttard

Paterfamilias: like father, like son

Freud implied (of course) that it is the hardest family relationship of all. In the *General Introduction to Psychoanalysis* there is the now-familiar knell: "we recognize a tendency for those of the same sex to become alienated, daughter from mother, father from son". And it gets worse: "To the son, the father is the embodiment of the social compulsion to which he so unwillingly submits, the person who stands in the way of his following his own will..." etc. Popular psychology may joke about the Oedipus complex but understanding stops there, in elche, John Bowlby, the great expert on mothering, stressed the idea of the remote father but, in the main, fathering has been neglected.

Certainly we found, when making *Mothers By Daughters* for Channel 4 two years ago, that the mother-daughter axis had inspired a daunting heaviness of transatlantic psycho-babble. But there is nothing like the same wealth of research about fathers and sons - a fact for which both sides may be grateful. For our purposes it was good: we came to the series *Fathers By Sons* with clean slates and few assumptions.

It was suggested to me, however, that men would find it hard to talk about their feelings. Barbara Windsor, Sheila Hancock and Maureen Lipman, for example, spoke of their mothers with ease and astonishing frankness. Surely no man would give so much on television?

In a sense that prediction, stereotyping though it may be, proved correct. The six sons (Terry Scott, Colin Welland, Corin Redgrave, the Rt Hon Denis Healey, Lord Sieff and the writer Tom Wakefield) often hesitated as if they had never, until that moment, considered the relationship in a particular way. Often the words came with difficulty.

6 Men generally find it hard to talk about their feelings

The men may be less emotionally volatile and more keen on facts and anecdotes, but the experience of their surprise at being forced to think beyond mere history made each interview all the more compulsive. Some questions are common to all the encounters; most are "tailored", all are simple, it is that low-key approach which (we believe) elicits stories that are both individual and universal.

If I were asked, overall, to sum up a striking difference between the sons and the daughters we talked to, it would be at once trivial and telling - to do with Appearance and Ambition. Which of those for which gender? I am afraid that the spontaneous assumption would be correct. In *Mothers By Daughters* each of the six women spoke of how much it had mattered to their mothers how they looked. Yet we have no corresponding recollection of fathers twitching and tweaking, criticizing or cajoling over clothes.

Instead, the six sons emphasized something more remote: values, a sense of having learnt from their fathers, a need to live up to father's expectation and justify father's pride. Terry Scott said, "I wouldn't want to let him down, would I?" Colin Welland said, "I don't want to sell him short."

Choosing the subjects for such a series is always difficult. In a sense, anyone is suitable. These are perfectly ordinary stories, with the exception of the two sons of famous fathers, Corin Redgrave and Lord Sieff. There is a temptation to plump either for the "big name" (he is famous, therefore the ratings will be good), or the "case history" (we must have fathers from different class backgrounds).

We adopted something of both. Colin Welland is interesting in his own right and comes from the Merseyside working class and is also a good example of a man bereaved early in life, so that he has spent his successful years wishing his father could have shared them. Marcus Sieff inherited the mantle of Israel Sieff - giving us a good example of an impress-

ive Jewish family business dynasty. While I was deeply impressed by Tom Wakefield's classic evocation of a Midlands boyhood, *Forties Child*, it also seemed important to have one interviewee who was homosexual. Interestingly, this moving story destroys more than one common misconception: it was Tom's mother who was cold and remote while his father, a third-generation miner, totally accepted his son's homosexuality. "I mean, on paper my background's not privileged. But it was the most extraordinary privilege to have a man like that for a father."

Overall, the lasting impressions are of love and admiration and a wish to record it. When the producer, Brit Allcroft, devised *Mothers By Daughters*, one of her aims was "to honour the mother-daughter relationship". To use that phrase does not imply whitewashing; it need not preclude honest criticism or regret. Denis Healey's... sometimes he didn't show as much appreciation as one would hope for. But it did mean that we were not seeking the sensational, unusual fact stories which make compulsive reading (Anthony West, Susan Chitty, John Osborne) but might make embarrassing and depressing television.



Fathers and sons: Colin and John Welland (top), Denis and William Healey (middle), Corin and Sir Michael Redgrave

Obviously there are people who loathe one or other parent - but is that most common experience? No; the mixture that we found of inarticulate love, gruff regard, much regret, and a sense of having the parent inescapably in one's veins - that is surely nearer to the experience of Everyman.

6 The sons needed to live up to fathers' expectations

Nobody deceives himself that a highly personal television interview is the whole story. Why should people spill essentially private beans before countless viewers? Of course the past may be rewritten a little; most of us do it all the time - judiciously editing our memories according to our needs. So subtle contradictions show during the span of the conversation. Corin Redgrave, for instance, says, "No, I don't think I rebelled against him," and then later hints quite clearly that he did go through a period of opposing his father. That is fine; that is how people are. But it would take an unashamed cynic to criticize the series for its rather joyful impression of love, admiration and positive testimony.

Corin Redgrave recalled that Sir Michael adamantly rejected the traditional Freudian interpretation of Hamlet as victim of an Oedipus complex. "For the fact that it was Hamlet's love of his father that was the guiding, ruling passion of that character and that play."

Bel Mooney

Fathers by Sons is broadcast tomorrow on Channel 4 at 9.15pm

Jet-setters

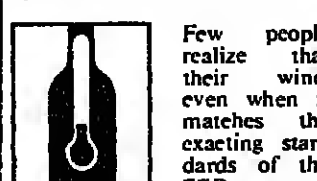
The photographs of Mr Stephen Telepy and Mr Tony Sinclair (Monday Page, July 15) were transposed.

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Sweet wine, sour note



Few people realize that their wine, even when it matches the exacting standards of the EEC, may well contain a legitimate amount of antifreeze.

One hundred milligrams of ethylene glycol (antifreeze) per litre of wine is considered an acceptable sweetener. If wine growers have occasionally erred on the side of adding a few milligrams too many it has not mattered, for alcohol is the antidote in cases of antifreeze poisoning. Even the weakest Austrian wine has enough alcohol in it to neutralise any possible ill effects.

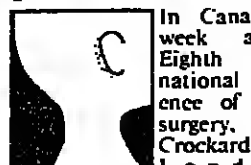
Warnings have been issued by the EEC that some Austrian growers have been too enthusiastic in the amount of antifreeze they have added to their wine. Every effort is being made to withdraw the over-dosed bottles from the retail market and in the meantime the Ministry of Agriculture and Food would not recommend buying Austrian wine.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Experts on poisons think it unlikely that consumption of wine would produce acute symptoms, but are worried that taking regular doses of it might cause renal damage.

Although the signs and symptoms of chronic antifreeze poisoning are not known, acute overdosage gives rise to drunkenness, nausea and vomiting. Other than the usual effects of inebriation it has one particular result in that dangerous crystals can occur in the kidneys, causing acute renal failure. Respiratory distress, convulsions and coma can also result from antifreeze overdosage.

Beware of a pain in the neck



In Canada last week at the Eighth International Conference of Neurosurgery, Alan Crookard, of London's National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queens Square, outlined a revolutionary approach to an old problem - the danger of serious spinal cord difficulty.

at the neck which confront many patients with longstanding rheumatoid arthritis.

Operating on the neck through the mouth can remove the danger of sudden death after a comparatively trivial injury and relieve pressure on the spinal cord which brings paralysis and deformity.

Patients with active rheumatoid arthritis develop a complication - the slipping forward, or subluxation, of the neck between the first and second cervical vertebrae which can prove fatal in a minor accident by pushing up a projection from the spine, the odontoid peg, into the base of the brain.

The first symptom of increasing deformity in the neck is often pain felt up the back of the head. It may be followed by tingling and loss of sensation in the hands and feet and increasing muscle weakness.

Rheumatologists used to assume that symptoms of pressure on the spinal cord were due to wrong bone alignment. Modern work with the NMR and CAT scanner has shown that bone changes are only part of the problem. The more important cause of pressure on the cord stems from the development of a thick pad of granulosomatous tissue, a pannus, in front of the joint space, which acts like a tumour.

Mr Crookard, with the support of orthopaedic surgeon Andrew Ramsford and a highly specialized team, has devised an operation which removes the pannus through the mouth. Results compare very favourably with the old-style bone-fixing operation.

Getting under your skin

Dupuytren's contracture is a deformity of a hand caused by the overgrowth of the fibrous layer underneath the skin of the palm. As the fibrous layer becomes thickened, the skin over it puckered, the fingers become progressively flexed into an involuntarily clenched fist.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Madcapped council

I trust the District Auditor, who today receives the defence of Liverpool's Labour councillors against a charge, is impressed by their evident eagerness to alleviate that city's financial plight. Last week on unshaven, tie-less, shirtless men marched into the city hall, went to see the council chairman Hugh Dalton, and announced that he represented a group of German businessmen who would give Liverpool £50 million provided they could be the city's financial advisers. Willy Brandt was involved because of his Third World interest, he said. Council leader John Hamilton was summoned and the man, clicking his heels and strutting around like a cartoon German, told him in clipped English to arrange a meeting with Liverpool bigwig the following day. When Hamilton pressed for details he was told: "Don't ask questions". The meeting was duly arranged. Councillors, council officers, and representatives from Cunard, the docks and Merseyside police turned up at 11am and waited... and waited... and waited. The man is now back in a Cumbrian psychiatric hospital. Hamilton comments: "I thought he was a phony, but if he had been genuine and I had turned down £50 million I'd have been on the rack with the public."

● Mrs Thatcher's three-car motorcade met a flashing, waiting fire engine at a junction in Parliament Square yesterday afternoon. Who did the police wave through? The PM.

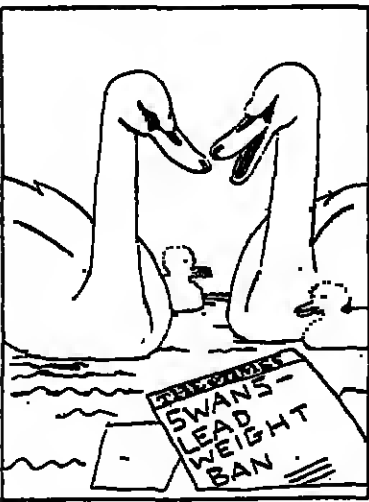
Currying favour

The publicity-seeking Edwina Currie has truly surpassed herself this time. In a letter to BBC TV's *Question Time*, a copy of which was found in Westminster, Edwina complains: "I am watching *Question Time* and once again the Conservative is a minister. Next week it is a former minister (Edward du Cann). Don't we have any ordinary backbenchers anymore? Has there been a change in policy perhaps? I am puzzled." She then resorts to outright flattery: "*Question Time* is still the best current affairs programme on TV by a street. Being on it is a considerable honour - as well as great fun. You had me on twice in quick succession but the last occasion was nearly one-and-a-half years ago. During that time I have been on just about every other serious TV programme, on all four channels, but I still pine for *Question Time*. It's (sic) and I trust has no substitute anywhere else."

Blinder

Labour members of the Foreign Affairs select committee reckon their damning and comprehensive minority report on the Belgrano sinking is something of a masterpiece. Indeed, they are so worried that its full impact will be lost amid the hefty bulk of the majority report when both are released next week that they have been seeking to have it published commercially. One snag: although interested, publishers are understandably reluctant to accept on trust a document which, because it is still strictly confidential, they cannot see.

BARRY FANTONI



'Now don't start going near the motorway'

Tiny's trump

After my disclosure yesterday of the tiny Rowland leiter containing bizarre allegations against former Lomho director Angus Ogilvy, I hear the Government is in a flat over another unpublished leiter in Rowland's possession. It was written by a former government minister, and urges Lomho to re-establish Sir Freddie Laker in business. Rowland, I am told, intends to use the letter as his trump card in his threatened \$327 million action against British Airways, which would effectively hold up its privatization. (Lomho's joint claim with Laker arises from ambitious plans to form a new airline and travel agency business within days of Laker's collapse in 1982). The former minister is rumored to be Iain Sproat, until 1983 MP for Aberdeen South, who as a minister was known as "Mr Privatization".

Shirley's hurdle

Will Shirley Williams fight Cambridge, eminently winnable by the Alliance, at the next election? She certainly wants to, not least because she has a home nearby. There is, however, one big stumbling block. The constituency members want to pick not the best Liberal or the best Social Democrat but the best candidate from either party through joint open selection. Shirley, the SDP president, would doubtless be chosen - but in doing so she would risk the wrath of her leader, David Owen, who is implacably opposed to joint open selection.

A decade ago Margaret Thatcher proclaimed that "the state should be the servant of the people, not its master", and among Conservatives criticism of the "corporate state" was fashionable. But while the state is frayed at some of the edges and part of it has been financed from different sources, after six years of a Thatcher government most of it is still comfortable behind its legal privileges, secrecy and lack of public accountability.

The NHS, for example, has crown immunity, which makes it very difficult to press cases for negligence. With some exceptions, local authorities are not liable for how well they perform their duties, and (except in Northern Ireland) the local ombudsman's findings on maladministration are not binding. Even if aggrieved ratepayers find their way through the obscurities of municipal accounting, and demonstrate waste or financial mismanagement, they are unlikely to obtain practical redress for their grievances from the auditor.

Many of the duties of statutory corporations are expressed in statute as generalized statements of good intent that cannot be tested in the courts. They cannot be contracted for statutory services, such as connection of gas or electricity supply, and thus cannot be sued for late performance. They can - and do - make errors and correct them at the expense of their customers.

Electricity complaints can be referred to the Electricity Council, but the hearings are no more than the industry acting as defence and judge of complaints against itself. Since the war the council found in favour of the complainant in only two out of 31 representations.

In 1981 the government told us that "many users feel powerless in their dealings with nationalized industries; they have more limited rights of redress than in their dealings with private firms." Fine words, but it has done nothing to improve matters. Indeed, recent arrangements for customer representation on the water authorities are a considerable step backwards.

It is ironic that customers of private utilities in the US have more

When will public services really serve?

by Alex Henney

legal rights to quality of service than we have from the utilities we nominally own. The New York Public Service Law states that "the provision of gas and electricity without unreasonable qualification or lengthy delays is necessary for the preservation of health and general welfare, and is in the public interest". Should not our government care equally for our public interest?

State organizations are structured to minimize public involvement in policymaking and scrutiny of performance. Since their inception nationalized industries have consistently resisted public accountability and scrutiny of their affairs, and have generally run themselves to maximize the comfort of management and employees.

The NCB under the joint management of Derek Ezra and Joe Gormley exploited the taxpayer and electricity customers, an arrangement in which the electricity industry also did well. Between 1970 and 1983 the price of electricity increased in real terms by 31 per cent. The industry's employees increased their hourly earnings relative to those of all employees in manufacturing by about 17 per cent and it has not explained why it employs proportionately nearly twice as many people as Tokyo Electric Power Company. The industry does not base its sales planning on what may benefit its customers - it does not know because it has never tried to find out

- but on the self-serving assertion that "it is in the interests of the nation and the industry that electricity sales should increase". While the latter part of the proposition is obvious, the former is not in these days of high costs, uncertain fuel supplies, and our high level of waste. Equally, it has made no serious effort to promote conservation.

The last Conservative manifesto promised that "merely replacing state monopolies by private ones would waste a historic opportunity to ensure that they do not exploit their positions to the detriment of customers". The benefits of privatization of British Telecom to the banks who floated it, and to the initial stockholders are clear. The benefits, however, to the customers and "public interest" (including smaller equipment suppliers) are not.

It is difficult for aggrieved customers to take BT to court on major matters, while Ofel, the regulatory body, was designed as a weak organization with few staff and limited powers. Will the government waste more "historic opportunities" when it privatizes British Gas and the water authorities?

Mrs Thatcher's failure to redeem her pledge lies in the fecklessness of Parliament and in the culture of Whitehall. MPs are supposedly representatives of the people; in

reality there are a few rugged individualists, many conforming to the party line, and a few paid lobbyists for sectional interests. Whitehall is a parliamentarian culture based on the implicit belief (notwithstanding all evidence to the contrary) that ministers, senior civil servants, and other high public sector officials know best.

When local authorities go off the rails, Whitehall does not think to provide the means to give local people more local control. Rather it introduces yet more complex, arbitrary, central controls, and gets bogged further down in an administrative mire. When a nationalized industry performs poorly, Whitehall does not provide the customers with the means to sort it out. Usually - after a long delay - it undertakes some centrally determined study which may or may not be made public.

What is surprising is not that management and employees should act in pursuit of their own interests, rather than any perception of the public interest, but that we have failed to recognize this and to provide proper checks and balances. The government claims to set store by the virtues of the free market, where ideally the customer is king, and competition provides a discipline to stimulate efficiency. For public (and private) monopolies we require a similar mechanism.

We can learn a great deal from the US. There they hold a clear view that when the public grants the privilege of monopoly franchise to a company to supply an essential service and the opportunity of earning a fair rate on its investment, the company is expected to supply services that the public thinks are in its interest. To this end the public service commissions act as the agent of the public, acting as arbiters between the public and the utilities. We need a similar system here.

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The author was formerly chairman of the London Electricity Consultative Council and a board member of the London Electricity Board.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

I rename the guilty person



The Pest's demands were made known to Berkeley teachers. One of these, a professor of journalism ("Now God, stand up for bastards") by the name of David Littlejohn, came out of his corner swinging.

Pretending, or asserting, that the syllable "man" signifies males exclusively can lead one into such barbarisms as "ombudsman" or "freshperson". "Man" and "Mankind" are universally understood to include both men and women... Except to avoid obvious terms of denigration or words commonly regarded as insulting, it is regarded as culturally sound to let languages evolve according to normal daily usage, and as culturally unsound to try to legislate them artificially according to the mandates of the university. (The Pest would probably insist that that should be persons!) In no case should good English words, which are a part of our common history, and heritage, simply be legislated in and out of usage according to the whims of persons or groups who suddenly declare themselves offended... In no case should the university accept the idea that the Office of Civil Rights is a better judge of appropriate language in its publications, or descriptions of its courses, than the university itself. That, you might say, is telling cm. But Professor Littlejohn made

one serious mistake, which may cost him and Berkeley dear. He said that he, and other members of the faculty, were "astonished" that the Office of Civil Rights was able and willing to waste its time and our money on matters of this sort.

If the good prof is really "astonished" that The Pest and friends would waste their own time and other people's money on such monkeyshines, he had better stop being astonished pretty sharply, because I can tell him now that The Pest is not going to accept this rebuff and go and boil his head for a turnip. He is going to burrow into the woodwork, find sympathetic, or intimidated, state legislators to follow him into it, and eventually emerge with powers to enforce his demands. The truth in these matters may be stated as a scientific law: "The persistence of public officials varies inversely with the importance of the matter on which they are persisting". Since the matter between The Pest and Berkeley is almost infinitely unimportant, it follows that he will be almost infinitely persistent; Berkeley may be so for a long time.

This rubbish is by no means confined to America; it has steadily oozed across the Atlantic. (As long ago as 1972, I reported from the Democratic presidential convention the ominous news that a speaker on the platform had represented himself as being "one of the co-chairpeople" of his state delegation, and the appalling Gloria Steinem had interrupted a talk on a "fringe" meeting by describing the star turn as "a spokesperson" for the subject under discussion; I added the much more ominous news that on both occasions I was the only person in the hall who laughed. If only Britain had listened to me.)

I've la difference! For what is behind this wearisome nonsense has nothing to do with discrimination against women. It is part of one of the worst of all the plagues of our world, the desire to pretend that all human beings are, or if they are not should be obliged to become, identical. Since inequality is built permanently into the human groove structure - so that most of us, for instance, could never run a mile in four minutes or play the violin like Sir Yehudi Menuhin (however long and hard we trained and practised) - and since the people who direct the movement I have described cannot (for reasons still obscure) bear to face that elementary truth, those who wish to push their mad and edifying forward march with one hand pretend that our inability to rival Sebastian Coe or Sir Yehudi is due only to our environment, and with the other find instances in which the names of things can be made equal even if the things themselves cannot.

It is this tide that has swept over a word like "elite" and changed its meaning from something admirable to something hateful, the same noisome sea that has drowned vital educational principles; driftwood from our laxation system bobs in the same flood. And because men and women are different, it follows that those who want to turn us all into helots of a totalitarian and illusory equality must do what they can to deny the existence, let alone the nature, of difference. And since they pretend that our inability to rival Sebastian Coe or Sir Yehudi is due only to our environment, and with the other find instances in which the names of things can be made equal even if the things themselves cannot.

The name of The Pest, incidentally, is Paul Grossman. Shouldn't he change his name to Grossperson? Or would that be so apposite that even his fellow-Pests might laugh, and see the point?

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Praise the leader - and work, work, work

Much material progress has been achieved. Pyongyang, in ruins when the Korean war ended in 1953, has been rebuilt in a style evocative of Moscow. Most residents of the capital live in apartment buildings, travel to work on an underground railway whose stations are decorated with marble and mosaics. They shop in stores impressively stocked with basic consumer goods, though short of meat and fresh foods.

On the train to Pyongyang from the border a middle-aged Korean in the dining car, inhibitions loosened by the local beer, offered a toast to a group of visitors, myself among them, and later visited us in our compartment. Thirty seconds after he entered, an attendant yanked him away to a compartment several doors down and closed the door, after which muffled voices and protests were heard for two hours.

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Sanctions: a black and white choice

David Watt

The threatening cloud of southern Africa is beginning to loom over British foreign policy again. It may break as early as October, at the Commonwealth heads of government meetings in the Bahamas.

For many years Rhodesia was the King Charles's head of these assemblies. Successive British governments found themselves forced to choose between going along with policies which they regarded as unrealistic as well as harmful to British commercial interests, or risking the breakup of the Commonwealth itself. Now the turmoil in South Africa, together with the sharp change of atmosphere in the US, threatens to produce another long drawn-out arrangement of Britain as a nation dragging its feet over the liberation of what is, in effect, the last African colony, Namibia.

Mrs Thatcher has a notoriously short fuse where the Commonwealth is concerned and her instinct will certainly be to tell her colleagues to go and jump into the Atlantic if they put too much pressure on her to use Britain's influence to help give Namibia independence. On the other hand, the arguments - even from self-interest - are by no means all on one side, and I suspect that she may not find it easy to decide on a satisfactory line.

The bandwagon for action against South Africa is rolling. The US Senate has just passed a bill imposing mild economic sanctions - banning new American bank loans to the government and the sale of computers to government agencies and of goods that can be used in nuclear production. But the House of Representatives has passed a tougher bill including a ban on new investment in South Africa, and even the Senate bill threatens such a ban in 18 months' time if there is not greater, and faster, progress towards ending apartheid.

EEC foreign ministers agreed in principle in Milan recently to strengthen the code of behaviour for European firms operating in South Africa. And in the Commonwealth, barring Britain, there is virtually unanimous support for the idea of adopting a sanctions regime on at least the same scale as the US. The case for Britain desisting itself from this movement is not as weak as is commonly made out.

There is no prospect at present of deflecting the South African government from its chosen path. President Botha does not propose to commit political suicide by pressing on faster than he already is with a policy of partial black enfranchisement - something already causing him acute difficulty with his right wing. Nor, while the military stalemate continues in Angola, is there any advantage for South Africa in allowing free elections in Namibia.

The US administration has given the clearest possible hints that it does not intend to take a great deal of notice of the bills passed by Congress, and although its efforts to produce a Namibian settlement are over for the time being, it does not propose to change its opposition to sanctions against South Africa in the UN security council.

The normal argument against sanctions - that if they are effective they harm the blacks more than anyone else - is reinforced at present by the fact that most front-line states do not want the South African economy, whose troubles are already causing them acute problems, to get

into any worse difficulties. On any serious scale, they are willing to wound but are afraid to strike.

It is argued that because a respectable number of countries seem agreed only on token sanctions, there is no harm in Britain going along with them. The standard and compelling reply is that since token sanctions will inevitably fail, there is bound to be pressure sooner or later to make them really effective by giving another turn to the screw. In this sense it is the first step that opponents of sanctions ask in return for a policy which, if fully implemented, will be ineffective as changing South Africa's policy as well as harmful to our commercial interests, and which will be futile and hypocritical if it is not.

There are only two possible answers. The one adopted by the idealists is that Britain should take a principled stand. The lobby for this view is probably growing under the influence of recent events in South Africa but it has not yet taken off in the way that it has, so remarkably, in the US. An important factor in Mrs Thatcher's calculations is that she will not lose many votes if she fudges this issue.

Much more serious from the government's standpoint is the argument that even cosmetic changes have had political consequences in the Third World. Most Commonwealth heads of government, whatever their private views, cannot afford to return home in the present climate without having at least made a noise on this topic. It is this noise, in that stark and inescapable form, as it begins to be when sanctions appear on the horizon, the answer is bound to go against South Africa in the end.

That is why the Prime Minister will probably try to buy a little more time by compromising her position to sanctions and going along with tokenism as the least bad alternative. All the same, one has a strong sense that time is now beginning to run out.

Professor Paul Wilkinson's attack, in the letters page last Friday, on my July 5 article on terrorism so wholly misrepresented my argument that I am obliged to elaborate what should have been obvious: that there is an elementary distinction between trying to understand terrorism and justifying it. I emphatically refuse to justify terrorism on any grounds whatsoever. What my recent articles on this subject have tried to present is an analysis of the emotions and ideas that have driven the US, and to a lesser extent European countries, into a morass of inconsistency and double standards over the use of violence in international affairs. Professor Wilkinson's easy denunciations of bombing and hijacking (which I entirely endorse) do not, unfortunately, dispose of these difficulties.

moreover... Miles Kington

Ice-cool recipes to mull over

Summer again, and time to go rooting round for those wonderful drink recipes you cut out and carefully put away. But you can't find them, can you? That's because you have ignored Golden Rule No 1 of kitchenwork: a cut-out recipe is a lost recipe. Don't worry - they will turn up again in the autumn, just when you don't need them any more. At the moment all you can find are those mouth-watering recipes for thick winter soups and warming casseroles to give people when they come back from carol singing. The very ones due to vanish in the autumn.

So here's what to do. Cut out this list of summer drink recipes and glue it to the kitchen wall. Or tattoo it on your spouse. Or nail it to the fridge, but whatever you do, don't put it in a safe place.

Hong Kong Ice Blaster: This is probably the most sophisticated cocktail ever made. Into a large goblet of crushed ice, packed tight, put varied tropical fruit (pineapple chunks, guava diced, lychees etc). Rinse the glass with sugar. Put in a small orchid and top everything with one of those silly but delightful cocktail parasols. What's sophisticated about that? Well, there are so many trimmings that you don't put any drink in it. Believe it or not, nobody notices.

Strawberry Cap: Get a huge strawberry. Carve it into the shape of a cup. Drink out of it.

Pimms No 17: Stand a large bucket in the garden. Throw in a few grass cuttings. Toss in the odd tired strawberry. If there is a dead ant or two, so much the better. Leaves are nice as well. Then pour in a bottle of Pimms No 17 and fill up with lemonade until the trimmings all come to the top, rather like an uncleaned swimming pool. This is exactly what the Edwardians drank in all those old photographs of garden parties. No wonder they all look distinctly septic.

A more acceptable modern version of this is simply to mix one bottle of Pimms No 17 (or, if you can't get it, 17 bottles of Pimms No

1) with lemonade, plus borage, comfrey, ragwort, lady's patchoules, camouflage, persiflage, greater spotted ampersand and any other herb you can find. It tastes exactly the same but looks better.

Heath Hazard: Have you ever noticed how drawn and worried people in health food shops look? That's because staying healthy takes a terrible toll of the body, unlike staying out of condition which takes no effort at all. Well, here's a witty little drink to cheer up your health friends. Made entirely from health food ingredients.

Put some tofu in the liquidizer. Then some yoghurt. Then some bean curd. Then some baker's yeast. Liquidize it all well together and use it to seal up draughty windows, gaps in the masonry, etc. It also seems to kill cockroaches and to have insulating powers.

What? The drink? Oh yes, sorry. Get a carton of orange juice. Using a hypodermic syringe, inject it with liberal amounts of vodka, then give it to abstaining friends. They'll love it.

Bloody Mary Celester: As for a Bloody Mary, but without the tomato juice.

Martini on the Bounty: As for a normal martini, but throw the gin overboard.

Feed Corduroy: Just as Black Velvet is half champagne, half Guinness, so feed Corduroy is half champagne, half iced tea. You just mix equal measures of chilled champagne and iced tea, with no milk, of course. If you've never had it, you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Actually, it's revolting. But you can get away with recipes like that safe in the knowledge that no one will ever object to them. Why not? Ah, that is Golden Rule No 2 in kitchenwork: Nobody who cut out a recipe for a drink and kept it ever

Golden Rule No 3 is equally simple. If a person cuts out a recipe and tries it but doesn't like it, they always assume that they didn't get the recipe right. They never blame it on the recipe. That's why so many cookbooks are published.

July 1985

I Watt
s: a black
te choice

into any worse difficulties
serious scale, there are
It is argued that the
respectable number of
going along only on the
and compelling reason is
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or later to make them
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In this case it is the
counts. Opponents of the
why Britain should put
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changing South Africa
well as harmful to the
interests, and which will
and hypocritical if it is
There are only two
answers. The one adopted
idealists is that Britain
principles stand. The
view is probably growing
influence of recent events
the way that has not
the US. An important
Thatcher's calculations
will not lose many
judges this issue.

Much more serious
government's serious
argument: that even
changes have had political
consequences in the Third
Commonwealth. Heads of
ment, whatever their
cannot afford to turn
present climate without
least made a move on
Britain's interests on the
forms of action that
politics have to ensure
of them will find it
it out of the common
and possibly on
operating on the
their own as well.

This is the dilemma
British government has
coming for 20 years and
and position. To we
interests in South
of the Third World? If
is possible that that
able form of action
sanctions to be used
answer is to go
Africa is the end.

That is why the Prime
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OVER THE TOP

If there is a single lesson that Mrs Thatcher has tried time and time again to read to the British people it has been that the public and private sectors are not Tweedledum and Tweedledee to be matched and played off against each other. The public sector is paid for out of taxation, on industry, energy and income (or else by inflationary borrowing). Comparability between the two is an illusion of the 1970s, a step-child of the corporatist mentality which was part of the British predicament. The Whitehall under-secretary responsible for regulating business is no brother under the skin to the company executive fighting for orders and profit, and it does not denigrate him to say so. Both are performing functions of different value: their rewards should reflect the fact. Tax-bounded and cash-limited, the remuneration of Whitehall must always be calculated under a prior restraint: what the taxable capacity of a nation struggling for economic renewal can afford.

What then do we make of the Prime Minister talking, as she did yesterday, of "comparable levels of responsibility"? Are public and private expenditure comparable: does the collective exaction that pays for the former not count? In accepting so fully the Top Salaries Review Body report, the Prime Minister has failed, failed as she did with Clegg in 1979, to put principle before the grasping demands of sections of the State's servants.

LABOUR'S LONG ROAD BACK

Conservative and Alliance politicians once reassured themselves that whatever success Mr Kinnoch's Labour Party appeared to be registering in the opinion polls, it would neither last nor stand up to pre-election pressure. This theory attributed the apparent resurrection of the party's fortunes to marketing tricks which disguised underlying problems which Mr Kinnoch could not solve. This comfortable analysis was complacent and Labour's opponents have stopped deceiving themselves.

Reselection of Labour candidates has not deprived the next Parliamentary Labour Party of as many moderates as was once feared, though a sizeable number of new extremists will be on the Labour benches whatever the election result. However, Militant Tendency's spread appears to be checked. The PLP is more disciplined. So are the National Executive Committee and Walworth Road. The trade union political fund ballots have so far been reassuring.

The by-election in Brecon and Radnor proved that efficient campaign machinery exists; it is backed by the introduction of more scientific techniques for judging electoral strategy. The party's new general secretary clearly enjoys his leader's authority as he shakes dead wood out of his organization.

The Bennite left which made it so hard for Kinnoch's

predecessors to maintain a unified front has fragmented and many of its most influential figures have thrown in their lot with the new leadership. As he completes his second year as leader Mr Kinnoch has cause for some satisfaction.

Below the surface, however, major difficulties remain. Labour's parliamentary performance is now pathetically, even disgracefully, weak. Few Labour MPs bother to appear in the chamber. Are they out at work in the constituencies, or simply reflecting that underlying contempt for parliamentary government which now permeates much of the Labour movement?

On policy the party's voice too often sounds weak and uncertain. The principal opposition to the Fowler social security reviews has come from within the Conservative party. Where are Labour's radical proposals for government on criminal justice, penal policy and broadcasting? Just exactly what would a Labour government do with the assets recently privatized by the Conservatives? Or with recent trade union legislation?

In most areas Labour hope to create a mood, without risking anything so specific as a policy. Those policies which have been agreed and enunciated rather more clearly - on local government, defence and the economy do not stand up to serious scrutiny.

The social changes of occupa-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Making best use of workforce

From the Chairman of the Business & Technician Education Council
Sir, Both John Cassels (June 13) and Tom King (July 9) have in recent articles pointed to one of the major constraints affecting British manufacturers' long-term ability to compete worldwide. Low levels of investment in educational support and training of the workforce has resulted in a shortage of competent technicians, engineers and managers.

Even at current overall levels of unemployment people skilled in modern production techniques, new material systems, computer-aided management and design are in short supply. Despite this, industry only spends 0.15 per cent of sales or put another way, about £200 per employee per annum overall on student support and training, which leaves us far behind our competitors' investment. If this situation continues I believe the UK will be in grave difficulties.

Many training officers do a sterling job but they are hampered by their local colleges, and colleges encourage their involvement. However, there is a view that often training and education matters are not given enough consideration at a high level in companies. In a recession these are the first to be dropped.

Until many more boards of directors give as much detailed consideration to their investment in people as is given to investment in plant, processes and research, we shall continue to drop behind the competition. Perhaps shareholders could start asking about their company's attitude and investment in the training and education of its major resource - its employees.

Yours sincerely,
H. N. RAINE, Chairman,
Business & Technician Education Council,
Central House,
Upper Woburn Place, WC1.
July 15.

Behind the terrorist

From the Sub-Warden of St Antony's College, Oxford
Sir, It seems timely to call attention to the Turkish technique for dealing with hijackers, which has proved effective since it was first tried in 1972. It is based on the principle that a sovereign state does not bargain with criminals.

If anyone is so ill-advised as to force an aircraft to land at an airport in Turkey, the procedure is as follows. Radio communication with it is at once broken off and it is surrounded at a distance by a cordon of snipers while vehicles are moved so as prevent its taking off again.

The hijackers may be shouting into the radio to demand the release of their friends in jail, the presence of ambassadors and representatives of the Red Cross, or simply the serving of dinner, but nobody knows because nobody is listening to them. A few hours are generally sufficient to persuade them to come out and surrender.

It was from the Turks that the world learnt how to prevent smallpox. Their experience with this more recent disease is no less valuable.

Yours faithfully,
G. L. LEWIS, Sub-Warden,
St Antony's College, Oxford.

A normal precaution

From Dr A. R. Rogers
Sir, As a general practitioner I write to lament the fact that few homes now seem to possess a mercury thermometer or even one of the more modern skin thermometers which consist of an easily read strip of heat sensitive crystals. To know whether or not a patient has a fever can be exceedingly helpful and occasionally even crucial to the management of the case. This is especially so when advising mothers about sick children, when the presence of fever can help indicate the extent of an illness.

So very often patients claim to have had a "temperature" yet have no means of checking. Without wishing to encourage hypochondria it does seem to me that every home should have one.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN ROGERS,
1 Victoria Park Road,
St Leonards,
Exeter, Devon.
July 10.

An open question

From Mr B. Grundberg
Sir, I wholeheartedly agree with Sir Colin Crowe's valid points (July 16) on outward-opening doors. When they are positioned as front or back doors they have two additional advantages:

1. In windy winter conditions the windblowing presses the door up against the weatherstrip, thus increasing the seal and thereby saving fuel bills.

2. An outward-opening door gives far greater protection against driving rain.

Continental housing features outward opening doors as standard and my involvement with Swedish housing in the United Kingdom has proven to me that outward-opening doors are much appreciated by UK homeowners.

Yours sincerely,
BENGT GRUNDBERG,
Managing Director,
Myresjö UK Ltd,
5 Hyde Park Gate, SW7,
July 16.

From Mr William Larkins
Sir, Front doors that open outwards knock the milk bottles over and wet the Times. This sticks the pages are together and makes it hard to read.

Yours faithfully,
W. LARKINS,
44 Walton Street,
Knightsbridge, SW3.
July 17.

ON THIS DAY

JULY 19 1889
In 1847 an act was passed enforcing the curfew of house servants in public service. In London the main drainage scheme of J. W. Bazalgette was completed in August 1875. For 150 years the Times was published at little short of its birth. In August 1982 a 75-anniversary was caught at Chertsey near Paul.

THE MAIN DRAINAGE OF LONDON

It is well known that London is the best drained city in the world and for sanitary reformers to expatiate on the satisfaction of the immense web of sewers and drains upwards of 2,000 miles in length which intersect the metropolis in every part. There is, however, a dark side to this picture and that dark side is the massive task of the Thames. In order, however, to understand clearly the great intercepting scheme of drainage it is necessary to show briefly the nature and extent of the evils it is intended to do away with. Up to the present, then, the object of all London drainage has been to make the Thames the great main sewer of the metropolis, an object which we shall see has been realized to the very fullest extent. All the sewers in London on both sides of the river run due north and south, all discharging themselves into the Thames, all within a length of some five or six miles. At the first glance this arrangement is bad enough, but it becomes worse still when we come to examine how it works. On both sides of the river the banks are scarcely above high water mark, while the average level of the ground immediately behind these banks is much below it. Half Lambeth, Bermondsey, and Rotherhithe being six feet below high-water level. As a natural consequence of this, the sewers are lower still, and their outlets are completely tide-locked, so that it is only at dead low water that they can empty themselves at all. Thus for 12 hours the sewage on both sides of London is pent up, and gives off its miasma, through the elaborate system of sewers and drains, into every street and house. As we have said, it can only escape at dead low water, when the returning tide carries it up and down, keeping all its abominable "fog" and "gas" above ground till the tide turns, when it is completely tide-locked, and a fresh quantum of some 200,000 gallons of filth to be operated on in a similar manner as it flows again. This was the arrangement 10 years ago, and is so still, but had as it is it is completely tide-locked, and a thousand times worse, and worse it has accordingly become. In 1848 and 1849 nearly all the houses in London had cesspools attached to them, and a very large proportion of these without any drains whatever. The alarming nature of this evil showed itself slowly but surely in the bills of mortality, a stir was made, and the then Commissioners of Sewers set to work to mitigate the dangerous nuisance by drainage, and the "tidal" system was introduced, the general receptacle. From that time, then, to the present some 700 or 800 miles of sewers and drains have been constructed and the cesspool nuisance has been almost entirely eradicated. The tide at present carries off nine years into the Thames and providing by drains the means for all cesspools to flow into it regularly day by day.

By this "improved" drainage upwards of 200,000 gallons of sewage have been daily added to the Thames at low water, all these effluents gallons containing no less than 300 tons of "organic matter", which in this case is the "tidal" system for filth of the most offensive nature. The amount of this, perhaps, justice to say that the Thames has not been the only sufferer. Wherever a stream could be found, no matter how pure its waters or how beneficial its course, drains have been made into it.

But this is not the only evil. The Thames in this hot weather runs short of water; there has been no rain, and the collections of refuse in the sewers have been the cause of the most offensive miasma. This flushing alone during summer costs 20,000 a year to get the poison into the Thames, and when in the Thames, 20,000 more is required to keep it from breeding a plague. The tide at present carries off nothing. A marked object was set afloat in the river with a view of ascertaining this, and for the last three weeks this buoy has been backwards and forwards between Vauxhall and London bridges, but never going much further either way. During the same period, of course, the sewage of the Thames, increased by its daily contribution, has been churning backwards and forward under this July sun.

The magnitude and importance of this danger have at last not only been seen, but means adopted to put an end to it for ever. Mr. Bazalgette, the Chief Engineer of the Board of Works, has fought long and arduously for his drainage system, and like all the struggles of earnest and clever men, the fight, though hard, has been a success. The "tidal" system of sewage drainage scheme has been adopted, and is now being carried out, and in a comparatively short time for such a gigantic work the Thames will be pure, and London at last effectively drained.

Fit for over-turning?

From Mr Peter Criddle
Sir, On a recent visit to the parish church of Beaminster I found a "valuation day" in progress. A trinity of Sotheby's experts were arrayed at a white table before the altar (the middle one labelled Lord-) while the faithful waited in the nave while their offerings.

Is this Sotheby's new approach to business?

Yours faithfully,
PETER CRIDDLE,
53 Belle Vue Gardens,
Shrewsbury,
Shropshire.
July 2.

Wrong culprit

From Miss Harriet Crawley
Sir, I am unjustly accused! According to your television critic Nicholas Shakespeare (July 8) my programme on Sir Alfred and Lady Beit (part of the "Great Collector" series) I am supposed to have told Sir Alfred that his Goya was ugly! For this I should have been pelted with plates.

I do not deserve this expensive punishment because I did not commit this expensive crime. It is Sir Alfred himself, owner of the Goya, who does not find the Dona Antonia Zarate a great beauty, and it was I who jumped to her defence!

With bated breath I wait for more of Mr Shakespeare's hallucinations.

Sincerely,
HARRIET CRAWLEY,
39 East 67th Street,
New York, NY 10021, USA.
July 10.

Little-known phrases

From Mr Alec Rose
Sir, To prepare for a visit in Czechoslovakia, the phrase book I purchased contained one indispensable phrase: "I am a hero of the Soviet Union".

Needless to say, this was before 1968.

Yours sincerely,
ALEX ROSE,
3 Seddons Walk,
Hockley, Essex.

Back of beyond

From Mr David Himsforth
Sir, We plead guilty to exhorting your correspondent (July 16) to "kiss his acting back goodbye" if he purchased our multi-purpose trolley.

Assuming that the surname Baracodou derives from "Barrow" a hill and "Clough" a ravine (Clambers' Twentieth Century Dictionary) the gentleman in question need help in moving heavy loads. Therefore, we have sent him a trolley with our compliments.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HIMSFWORTH,
Marketing Director,
Aspect Mail Order Ltd,
PO Box 15, Wetherby,
West Yorkshire.

THE ARTS

Television

Trying for a comedy

A half-hour comedy series is very much like a race horse: when it first runs its mature form may be evident, but its performance will remain unpredictable until late in the season.

It would be unwise to criticise too seriously after only three episodes, particularly since the expectations of the first comedy series to use an Asian cast and themes are very high.

The series is based around an up-market Indian restaurant called The Jewel in the Crown, and the family of its proprietor, played exuberantly by Saeed Jaffrey. To date the show has seldom raised a smile, and it is hard to see at this early stage where a robust strain of comedy could take root.

A very large part of the humour of a weekly half-hour comedy develops as the audience grows familiar with the characters and the way they interact. Other series based on the catering trade, like *Comedy Towers* or the American *Cheers*, have used customers as catalysts to initiate responses in the regular cast.

Last night Saeed Jaffrey enacted the principle of "le patron mange ici" of an old radical chum from the Sixties, who proved to have sold out

and taken a job as a vernal restaurant critic. Had we known the parties better the scenario would have seemed more amusing.

The best laugh in *Maya Baby* (BBC-2), a one-shot comedy drama written by and starring Jack Klaff, came as a young couple lay side-by-side in post-coital anxiety thinking "I'm sure he/she would have said if he/she had herpes." The theme of the piece was the decision to have a baby, made impossibly significant in an era of foolproof contraception and fallible relationships.

Crisp direction by Roger Graef made the most of the juxtaposition of irrelevant zoological comparisons, nicely observed interchanges and edgy interior monologues.

The play's weakness was that most of the issues of fashionable procreation were not raised; the loudest voice in the arguments seemed to be that of the girl's biological clock, portrayed by her own face lecturing from the diat of the bedside Teasmade.

The pattern on the couple's duvet cover seemed extremely dull by the time the girl, played by Helen Bourne, finally let nature take its course.

Celia Brayfield

Opera

Singular but stolid

Rodrigo
Sadler's Wells

Handel Opera's new *Rodrigo* is, in principle, a bold twentieth-century adventure, taking advantage of the discovery by Winton Dean and Anthony Hicks, in 1983 among the private collection of the Earl of Shaftesbury, of most of what had hitherto been missing of the music.

But an aria or two and chunks of recitative have still had to be found from elsewhere, quasi-historical work, composed for Florence in 1707. One of these arias, *Rodrigo's* "Ochti neri", has been fitted to the music of the air "Charming beauty", from Handel's last oratorio, *The Triumph of Time and Truth*. Doubtless there are scholarly reasons for believing, as Mr Hicks does, that the two are intimately linked, but "Ochti neri" seems a singularly unattracting opening aria for the chief villain.

The music is as inventive, fiery and fluent as one has come to expect of the young Handel, though there are fewer outright pleasant shocks than in his Roman works of the time. Neither is Handel's characterization as subtle as in the later Italian operas written for England, but surely there is more to it than can be seen in Tom Hawkes's somewhat stolid production.

The singers move stiffly, and there is little sense of communication between platform and auditorium. Even Florinda's baby, tear-jerkingly brought on

at the end, is too obviously a mis-shapen rag doll, and the only real stroke of imagination, though an entirely baffling one, is the sudden appearance at the end of a small chorus of Ku Klux Klansmen.

Together with designs which seem conspicuously uncertain of epoch, this adds up to insurmountable problems for the singers. Penelope Mackay, having been recruited for the role of Rodrigo at one week's notice, battles bravely, clutching at loose sheets of music, but looks and sounds understandably uncertain. Marie Slorach, as Esilena, Rodrigo's wife, shows a forceful presence though her sense of rhythm and pitch occasionally fails her. Ian Carey's Giuliano is often distressingly flat, even if he unleashes his power effectively where required, while Robin Martin Oliver, as Fernando, has little tonal variety to offer; for a soldier his counterpoint seems pretty ineffectual.

There are better things to be heard from Sandra Dugdale, a Florida whose direct projection reflects well the solid determination of one of the opera's stronger characters. As Evanco, Janis Kelly, too, shows that she has a voice of immense vitality and colour, one well suited to this repertoire.

Charles Farncombe, who also composed the missing recitatives, conducts the Handel Opera Baroque Orchestra who sometimes play with more enthusiasm than accuracy. Further performances tonight and tomorrow.

Stephen Pettitt

Concert

RPO/Fremaux
Barbican

Despite its programmatic pagantry, the Royal Philharmonic's Berlioz and Ravel concert last night was rather in the mood of a quiet wind down after Bastille Day. Louis Fremaux's visits to Britain, after his spell six years ago in Birmingham, are now comparatively rare; yet there was little sense of occasion. The orchestra's white jackets and the small, cosy audience all contributed to the atmosphere of a matinee rather than a soiree musicale.

After a somewhat fuzzy, sepia version of the *Roman Carnival* Overture, came Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite* - the storybook rather than the ballet. Physical and dramatic tension was smoothed and eased away by Fremaux's insistence on a full, warm bass cushioning for the work's reclining harmonies. The pavane, with its lingering phrase endings, chose to melt itself into the waltz, rather than set itself apart; the violin solo curled round itself with an old-world

nostalgia anticipating the sensuous enfolding of the entire string section in the concluding sarabande.

By now, the Royal Philharmonic had been seduced into playing really rather well. With some lively, fresh-faced solos, it took only the highly imaginative playing of Nobuko Imai to concentrate their minds, and, indeed, that of Fremaux himself, for Berlioz's "Harold in Italy" Symphony. Its tableaux still, to some extent, had the feeling of being filtered through recollection rather than being recreated anew: Harold's song in the mountains had a rolling list to it, the pilgrim's march the leisurely tread of a boulevard stroll.

But even in her arpeggiated accompaniment to their evening hymn, Imai's playing had the effect of pointing and clarifying the orchestra's texture. In the quick intelligence and inner vitality of its phrasing, the viola provided the focussing equipment for foreground and background, and sealed the entire performance's presence.

Hilary Finch

Politics and propaganda with a personal touch

Diary for my
Children (PG)
Camden PlazaThe Coca-Cola Kid
(15)

Screen-on-the-Hill

The Life and Death
of Colonel Blimp (U)
Screen at the Electric

Diary for my Children is the best and most powerful film in the prolific career of the Hungarian director Marta Meszaros - no doubt because it is so deeply rooted in painful autobiography.

The director's father Laszlo Meszaros was a well-known sculptor. Both parents were dedicated Communists who left Hungary during the Horvath era to emigrate to the Soviet Union, full of faith and optimism. This was in 1936, when Marta was five. Two years later Meszaros disappeared, a victim of Stalin's purges. His wife died shortly afterwards.

The orphaned Marta was delivered back to Hungary in 1946. "It's my own story I am telling," she says. "The problem of the child left alone in the world, searching for parents, has been a dominant impression for me."

Julia, the teenage heroine of the film, arrives back in Hungary after the war with other former expatriates. She is adopted by a good Communist household, dominated by the outwardly tough, inwardly deeply neurotic Magda, an old revolutionary and hardliner. The inevitable conflict between Magda and the independent, rebellious, intelligent, questioning Julia reaches its climax when Julia sees Magda using her political power to pay off personal grudges: this was the era of purges and show-trials.

Julia is a survivor. A portion of the artist-to-be, she is forever skipping school in order to go to the cinema. Identifying with Garbo in *Two-Faced Woman* or learning scepticism in the face

of Stalinist propaganda movies provides her with better solutions to life's problems than the socialist reality of the early Fifties can offer.

The film is an attractive, credible, unpretentious portrait of Julia/Marta as a vital, "difficult" adolescent. (The role is played by Zsuzsa Czinkóczi, who has developed from an exceptional child performer to a formidable adult actor.)

More than this though it is an extraordinary panorama of socialist Europe's darkest days, still so controversial for the East that the release of the film was held up for more than a year. This is the frankest analysis we have yet seen of What Went Wrong in those years - the propagandist deceptions, the oppression, the extent of the privilege enjoyed by the top bureaucracy, the manipulation of political power for personal ends.

A remarkable discussion confronts the party people who believe that ideological conviction is sufficient qualification for an engineer, when a sceptic (who pretty soon lands in jail) protests that professional skills are more necessary if the country is to work effectively. It is still a live debate in much of the Socialist world.

The analysis is fascinating and unprecedently revealing, but it is the strength of personal memory that makes the film so overwhelming. Meszaros avoids sentimentality to an extent that would seem like coldness but for the force that actual experience gives to moments like the arrest in Russia of Julia's father and the arrest in Budapest of her friend and mentor (both characters are played by the same actor, Jan Nowicki); or to the scene of a girl visit to a political prisoner of the early Fifties.

Since he left his native Yugoslavia in the early Seventies, Dusan Makavejev has been an itinerant. He made *Sweet Movie* as a Franco-German-Canadian co-production; *Montenegro* in Sweden; and now, after several years struggling to find finance, *The Coca-Cola Kid* in Australia. If you search for the hard, bright talent of *The Switchboard Operator* or *W. R. - Mysteries*

of the *Organism*, or for the geniality and invention of *Innocence Unprotected* you may be disappointed in the new film. Taken just for fun, as a light-hearted vaudeville, in which touches of the old Makavejev madness collide with the dissonant humour of Dunder, it has a lot of pleasures to offer.

The American actor Eric Roberts, a mannerist par excellence, but clever and attractive for all that, is the Coca-Cola Kid, a young marketing executive who is the American mirror-image of the Soviet ice-skating champion in *W. R.* He too is a zealot and an innocent, inspired with a great political message - in this case that the world can never be truly free until every person in it drinks Coca-Cola.

Sent from the parent office to see why the Sydney mission is on the slide, he finds the Coke market is threatened by a sturdy independent outback soft-drinks tycoon, played by Bill Kerr as an Oz Colonel Sanders.

Frank Moorhouse's script, based on his own short stories, is cheerfully but sometimes irritatingly inconsequential about the progress and motives of the ensuing battle between the respective symbols of organization and uninhibited human whim. Good humour generally wins out: there are no real villains in Makavejev's world, only clowns and the misled. Greta Schacchi is a worthy newcomer to the club of plucky, hot-blooded, slightly off-the-rails Makavejev heroines, with Rebecca Smart as her self-possessed infant daughter. It is just that one yearns for the old bite.

For the first time in over 40 years the complete version of *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp* may be seen in a glittering new colour print restored by the National Film Archive, with the assistance of the Rank Organisation and the Sainsbury Charitable Trust. Had Churchill had his way the film would never have seen the light of day at all. "Pray propose to me the measures necessary to stop this foolish production", he muttered Brendan Bracken, Minister of Information, in 1943. "I am not prepared to allow propaganda detrimental



Coca-Cola executive (Eric Roberts) with Oz resident

to the morale of the Army. Who are the people behind it?" They were in fact Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, whose intention was not at all detrimental to national morale. The life story of the grand old soldier was a celebration of British life and character, but also an exhortation to follow Blimp's example and throw off tradition and hierarchy where they stood in the way of the new strategies demanded by the Second World War.

The film stands up magnificently. The moods and the sentiments have lost none of their integrity; and technically it is a marvel. More and more as

time goes on it is clear how far apart Michael Powell stood from his British contemporaries, in his invention, visual flair and comprehension of the magical and musical element in cinema. Nor have the performances of Roger Livesey, Anton Walbrook and a solemn, enchanting, 22-year-old Deborah Kerr dated not one whit.

Both the *Coca-Cola Kid* and the refurbished *Blimp* may also be seen at the Cambridge Film Festival, which continues until July 28. I am sorry that there is not more space to preview this event, which is now in its ninth edition, and is rapidly growing in ambition. This year offers

several important British premieres. From Berlin, there is Percy Adlon's *Sugar Baby*, which is presented in the context of a retrospective of Adlon's work; the director himself will be present. From Cannes, besides the *Coca-Cola Kid*, the festival has selected Nicolas Roeg's *Insignificance*, and the Argentine Luis Puenzo's memorable *The Official Version*, dealing with problems of individual responsibility in the era of the Generals. There is also a major retrospective of Francesco Rosi, and a revival of Von Stroheim's *Queen Kelly*, also newly restored.

David Robinson

Marital muddles

A State of Affairs
Duchess

Transferred, to general acclaim, from the Lyric Hammersmith, Graham Swannell's quartet of marital playlets is clearly the work of a man who knows every cranny in the conjugal battlefield.

With lies and deceptions, brutal candour and agonized confessions all yielding misery of one kind or another, the piece works through a painfully familiar series of sexual variations which present marriage as a partnership between people whose desires only coincide, briefly, in bed.

This is not Mr Swannell's first play; but it conveys the sense of a man showing his wounds rather than a writer telling a story. None of the plays really goes anywhere: a flagging husband is coaxed back into service when his wife climbs into a pair of thigh-boots; he promised us as much in his opening speech; two exhausted parents, wondering where all the fun has gone, are shocked back into domestic routine by the arrival of an abandoned friend - but there was never much sign that either of them was going to quit the nest.

The writing is extremely sharp in showing how thought becomes bent in the closed world of marriage: how dangerous explosions of truth are apt to be followed by a lying afterthought, and how arguments that sound plausible in the privacy of your own head, bite the dust when spoken aloud.

At the same time, Mr Swannell is well aware that passion generates cliché, and his attempts to get around this with gag-lines undermine emotional accuracy without really pushing the scenes into comedy. Also, his dialogue falls too often into the pattern of innocent statement and outraged response.

Peter James's production is built around four contrasted duets between Gary Bond and Nichola McAuliffe. From the commanding booted lady in the first piece to the hollow-eyed, boiler-suited mum in the last, Miss McAuliffe gets wholly inside the skin of every character that comes her way.

Mr Bond, despite the strenuous efforts of the wardrobe, remains Mr Bond throughout. There is good support from the unassuming Amanda Boxer, and from Lee Walker and Arthur Kelly as a pair of beer-garden studs.

Irving Wardle

Theatre
Separate worlds of wordsElizabeth Gordon
Quinn

Traverse, Edinburgh

When the world becomes too bleak should we battle to change it physically, or retreat into a world of our own imaginative making? For Elizabeth Gordon Quinn, living in a 1915 Glasgow tenement, with the world at war and her women neighbours waging the Glasgow Rent Strike, the riches of her imagination are all she can afford - and even they come at her family's expense.

Chris Hamman's new play is an inventively witty but moving exploration of public and private responsibility, of individual and collective rights, and of human obligation and optimism. Taking an oblique approach to the issues of the Rent Strike, he matches theme to form, using theatre self-consciously to explore double perspectives and suspending the play half in a no man's land where material reality and imagination blur.

Against the background of material struggle, Elizabeth Quinn, proud, eccentric, makes her own anarchic stand against circumstances: refusing to believe her poverty, she boycotts the strike piano shop; she squeezes into her tiny squalid home becomes a symbol of her individuality.

Dogged naturalism

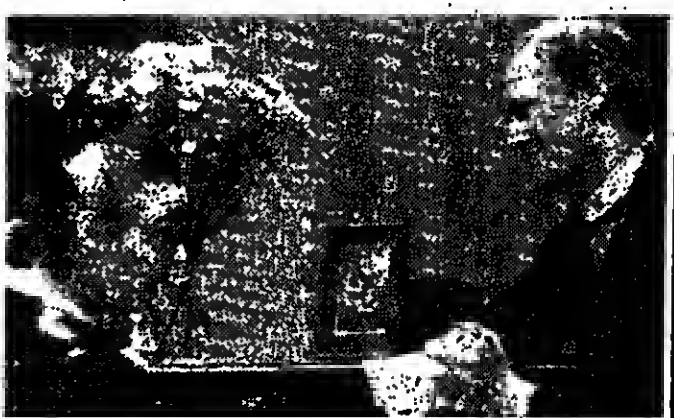
California Dogfight
Bush Theatre

In a derelict pear orchard in the Sacramento delta two opposing factions set up a "convention" - a fight between pit bull terriers. The dogs' owners (John Shrapnel and Stuart Wilson) are seconded by their handlers (Daniel Webb and Jimmy Chisholm) though Mr Wilson is trying to poach Mr Webb from his adversary.

Mr Webb has brought along a "simple-minded all-American college girl" (Lizzy Melnery), Mr Wilson his long-term and long-suffering girlfriend (Deborah Norton).

To prove a point to the younger woman, Miss Norton tricks the men into attempting to walk ten paces in her pink high heels. To check for poison, Mr Wilson licks the hair of his opponent's dog (an appalling performance by Benet Beason of Stratham).

But he need not have bothered: his own dog wins the day and Mr Webb enters his service, leaving Mr Shrapnel to administer the coup de grace to



Eileen Nicholas and Ralph Riach

Partly this is a wry picture of the artist, isolated in illusory independence - except that Elizabeth's creativity can only lie in flamboyantly reinventing her own life. Like Beckett's tramps, Hamman's characters are sometimes ironically aware of being in a play, and they explore the invention of language, its power to dramatize circumstance and self. Language is Elizabeth's weapon against reality, faltering as reality breaks in.

In a strong, versatile cast, Irene MacDougall as the suffragette-like strike leader gives a forceful counterpart to Elizabeth, while Ralph Riach as her husband is both funny and gentle. Stephen Unwin's direction imaginatively accentuates the juxtaposition of stylization and naturalism, though this

does create problems. The second act's broadening development of emotion and argument is sometimes difficult to sustain: where the play slows down it can lose shape and momentum; and, while Eileen Nicholas's beautifully theatrical Elizabeth powerfully puts both sides of her vulnerable self-centredness, she perhaps pushes us away from the ending's emotional impact.

That said, both she and the play make an ironic, sad statement about those whose imagination, denied fulfilment by their impoverished reality, becomes their only means of escape from it.

Sarah Hemming

Elizabeth Gordon Quinn runs until Sunday.

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No.	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P.E.
BUILDING AND ROADS						
1	Dew (George)	224	0	0	0	0
2	Glencon (NI)	120	0	0	0	0
3	Flint (John)	120	0	0	0	0
4	Monk (A)	120	0	0	0	0
5	Ruby Cement	120	0	0	0	0
6	Tilbury Group	120	0	0	0	0
7	Turner	120	0	0	0	0
8	Roberts Adair	120	0	0	0	0
9	Calford	120	0	0	0	0
10	Comptrols	120	0	0	0	0
INDUSTRIALS A-D						
11	Aercon	120	0	0	0	0
12	Burns Anderson	120	0	0	0	0
13	Baker Perkins	120	0	0	0	0
14	St. James	120	0	0	0	0
15	Reynolds	120	0	0	0	0
16	Chapman & Cook	120	0	0	0	0
17	Boysie	120	0	0	0	0
18	Brown (John)	120	0	0	0	0
19	AIM	120	0	0	0	0
20	Diploma	120	0	0	0	0
BREWERIES						
21	Greenall Whitley	120	0	0	0	0
22	Irish Dist	120	0	0	0	0
23	SA Breweries	120	0	0	0	0
24	Chis (Matthew)	120	0	0	0	0
25	Whitbread (A)	120	0	0	0	0
26	Base	120	0	0	0	0
27	Boddingtons	120	0	0	0	0
28	Bulmer (HP)	120	0	0	0	0
29	Martins Thompson	120	0	0	0	0
30	Allied Lyons	120	0	0	0	0
INDUSTRIALS E-Z						
31	Scott Henshaw	120	0	0	0	0
32	Tet Abrasives	120	0	0	0	0
33	Ud Pirelli	120	0	0	0	0
34	Seaboard	120	0	0	0	0
35	Wear	120	0	0	0	0
36	TNT	120	0	0	0	0
37	Sir Comp	120	0	0	0	0
38	Slate	120	0	0	0	0
39	Woodward	120	0	0	0	0
40	Waterford Glass	120	0	0	0	0

Weekly Dividend						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL
12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	72.00

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P.E.
1	120	0	0	0	0
2	120	0	0	0	0
3	120	0	0	0	0
4	120	0	0	0	0
5	120	0	0	0	0
6	120	0	0	0	0
7	120	0	0	0	0
8	120	0	0	0	0
9	120	0	0	0	0
10	120	0	0	0	0

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P.E.
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0

UNDATED

Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P.E.
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0

INDEX-LINKED

Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P.E.
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0

BREWERIES

Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P.E.
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P.E.
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0	0

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities higher

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, July 15. Dealings End, July 26. Contango Day, July 29. Settlement Day, Aug 5.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P.E.
1	120	118	British (A)	120	0	0	0	0
2	120	118	British (B)	120	0	0	0	0
3	120	118	British (C)	120	0	0	0	0
4	120	118	British (D)	120	0	0	0	0
5	120	118	British (E)	120	0	0	0	0
6	120	118	British (F)	120	0	0	0	0
7	120	118	British (G)	120	0	0	0	0
8	120	118	British (H)	120	0	0	0	0
9	120	118	British (I)	120	0	0	0	0
10	120	118	British (J)	120	0	0	0	0

BUILDING AND ROADS

1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P.E.
1	120	118	British (A)	120	0	0	0	0
2	120	118	British (B)	120	0	0	0	0
3	120	118	British (C)	120	0	0	0	0
4	120	118	British (D)	120	0	0	0	0
5	120	118	British (E)	120	0	0	0	0
6	120	118	British (F)	120	0	0	0	0
7	120	118	British (G)	120	0	0	0	0
8	120	118	British (H)	120	0	0	0	0
9	120	118	British (I)	120	0	0	0	0
10	120	118	British (J)	120	0	0	0	0

1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P.E.
1	120	118	British (A)	120	0	0	0	0
2	120	118	British (B)	120	0	0	0	0
3	120	118	British (C)	120	0	0	0	0
4	120	118	British (D)	120	0	0	0	0
5	120	118	British (E)	120	0	0	0	0
6	120	118	British (F)	120	0	0	0	0
7	120	118	British (G)	120	0	0	0	0
8	120	118	British (H)	120	0	0	0	0
9	120	118	British (I)	120	0	0	0	0
10	120	118	British (J)	120	0	0	0	0

FINANCE AND LAND

1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P.E.
1	120	118	British (A)	120	0	0	0	0
2	120	118	British (B)	120	0	0	0	0
3	120	118	British (C)	120	0	0	0	0
4	120	118	British (D)	120	0	0	0	0
5	120	118	British (E)	120	0	0	0	0
6	120	118	British (F)	120	0	0	0	0
7	120	118	British (G)	120	0	0	0	0
8	120	118	British (H)	120	0	0	0	0
9	120	118	British (I)	120	0	0	0	0
10	120	118	British (J)	120	0	0	0	0

FOODS

1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P.E.
1	120	118	British (A)	120	0	0	0	0
2	120	118	British (B)	120	0	0	0	0
3	120	118	British (C)	120	0	0	0	0
4	120	118	British (D)	120	0	0	0	0
5	120	118	British (E)	120	0	0	0	0
6	120	118	British (F)	120	0	0	0	0
7	120	118	British (G)	120	0	0	0	0
8	120	118	British (H)	120	0	0	0	0
9	120	118	British (I)	120	0	0	0	0
10	120	118	British (J)	120	0	0	0	0

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P.E.
1	120	118	British (A)	120	0	0	0	0
2	120	118	British (B)	120	0	0	0	0
3	120	118	British (C)	120	0	0	0	0
4	120	118	British (D)	120	0	0	0	0
5	120	118	British (E)	120	0	0	0	0
6	120	118	British (F)	120	0	0	0	0
7	120	118	British (G)	120	0	0	0	0
8	120	118	British (H)	120	0	0	0	0
9	120	118	British (I)	120	0	0	0	0
10	120	118	British (J)	120	0	0	0	0

CINEMAS AND TV

1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P.E.
1	120	118	British (A)	120	0	0	0	0
2	120	118	British (B)	120	0	0	0	0
3	120	118	British (C)	120	0	0	0	0
4	120	118	British (D)	120	0	0	0	0
5	120	118	British (E)	120	0	0	0	0
6	120	118	British (F)	120	0	0	0	0
7	120	118	British (G)	120	0	0	0	0
8	120	118	British (H)	120	0	0	0	0
9	120	118	British (I)	120	0	0	0	0
10	120	118	British (J)	120	0	0	0	0

DRAPERY AND STORES

1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P.E.
1	120	118	British (A)	120	0	0	0	0
2	120	118	British (B)	120	0	0	0	0
3	120	118	British (C)	120	0	0	0	0
4	120	118	British (D)	120	0	0	0	0
5	120	118	British (E)	120	0	0	0	0
6	120	118	British (F)	120	0	0	0	0
7	120	118	British (G)	120	0	0	0	0
8	120	118	British (H)	120	0	0	0	0
9	120	118	British (I)	120	0	0	0	0
10	120	118	British (J)	120	0	0	0	0
11	120	118	British (K)	120	0	0	0	0
12	120	118	British (L)	120	0	0	0	0
13	120	118	British (M)	120	0	0	0	0
14	120	118	British (N)	120	0	0	0	0
15	120	118	British (O)	120	0	0	0	0
16	120	118	British (P)	120	0	0	0	0
17	120	118	British (Q)	120	0	0	0	0
18	120	118	British (R)	120	0	0	0	0
19	120	118	British (S)	120	0	0	0	0
20	120	118	British (T)	120	0	0	0	0
21	120	118	British (U)	120	0	0	0	0
22	120	118	British (V)	120	0	0	0	0
23	120	118	British (W)	120	0	0	0	0
24	120	118	British (X)	120	0	0	0	0
25	120	118	British (Y)	120	0	0	0	0
26	120	118	British (Z)	120	0	0	0	0
27	120	118	British (AA)	120	0	0	0	0
28	120	118	British (AB)	120	0	0	0	0
29	120	118	British (AC)	120	0	0	0	0
30	120	118	British (AD)	120	0	0	0	0
31	120	118	British (AE)	120	0	0	0	0
32	120	118	British (AF)	120	0	0	0	0
33	120	118	British (AG)	120	0	0	0	0
34	120	118	British (AH)	120	0	0	0	0
35	120	118	British (AI)	120	0	0	0	0
36	120	118	British (AJ)	120	0	0	0	0
37	120	118	British (AK)	120	0	0	0	0
38	120	118	British (AL)	120	0	0	0	0
39	120	118	British (AM)	120	0	0	0	0
40	120	118	British (AN)	120	0	0	0	0
41	120	118	British (AO)	120	0	0	0	0
42	120	118	British (AP)	120	0	0	0	0
43	120	118	British (AQ)	120	0	0	0	0
44	120	118	British (AR)	120	0	0	0	0
45	120	118	British (AS)	120	0	0	0	0
46	120	118	British (AT)	120	0	0	0	0
47	120	118	British (AU)	120	0	0	0	0
48	120	118	British (AV)	120	0	0	0	0
49	120	118	British (AW)	120	0	0	0	0
50	120	118	British (AX)	120	0	0	0	0
51	120	118	British (AY)	120	0	0	0	0
52	120	118	British (AZ)	120	0	0	0	0
53	120	118	British (BA)	120	0	0	0	0
54	120	118	British (BB)	120	0	0	0	0
55	120	118	British (BC)	120	0	0	0	0
56	120	118	British (BD)	120	0	0	0	0
57	120	118	British (BE)	120	0	0	0	0
58	120	118	British (BF)	120	0	0	0	0
59	120	118	British (BG)	120	0	0	0	0
60	120	118	British (BH)	120	0	0	0	0
61	120	118	British (BI)	120	0	0	0	0
62	120	118	British (BJ)	120	0	0	0	0
63	120	118	British (BK)	120	0	0	0	0
64	120	118	British (BL)	120	0	0	0	0
65	120	118	British (BM)	120	0	0	0	0
66	120	118	British (BN)	120	0	0	0	0
67	120	118	British (BO)	120	0	0	0	0
68	120	118	British (BP)	120	0	0	0	0
69	120	118	British (BQ)	120	0	0	0	0
70	120	118	British (BR)	120	0	0	0	0
71	120	118	British (BS)	120	0	0	0	0
72	120	118	British (BT)	120	0	0	0	0
73	120	118	British (BU)	120	0	0	0	0
74	120	118	British (BV)	120	0	0	0	0
75	120	118	British (BW)	120	0	0	0	0
76	120	118	British (BX)	120	0	0	0	0
77	120	118	British (BY)	120	0	0	0	0
78	120	118	British (BZ)	120	0	0	0	0
79	120	118	British (CA)	120	0	0	0	0
80	120	118	British (CB)	120	0	0	0	0
81	120	118	British (CC)	120	0	0	0	0
82	120	118	British (CD)	120	0	0	0	0
83	120	118	British (CE)	120	0	0	0	0
84	120	118	British (CF)	120	0	0	0	0
85	120	118	British (CG)	120	0	0	0	0
86	120	118	British (CH)	120	0	0	0	0
87	120	118	British (CI)	120	0	0	0	0
88	120	118	British (CJ)	120	0	0	0	0
89	120	118	British (CK)	120	0	0	0	0
90	120	118	British (CL)	120	0	0	0	0
91	120	118	British (CM)	120	0	0	0	0
92	120	118	British (CN)	120	0	0	0	0
93	120	118	British (CO)	120	0	0	0	0
94	120	118	British (CP)	120	0	0	0	0
95	120	118	British (CQ)	120	0	0	0	0
96	120	118	British (CR)	120	0	0	0	0
97	120	118	British (CS)	120	0	0	0	0
98	120	118	British (CT)	120	0	0	0	0
99	120	118	British (CU)	120	0	0	0	0
100	120	118	British (CV)	120	0	0	0	0

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Oftel tries to exercise its authority on BT

British Telecommunications' first set of accounts as a publicly quoted company are everything that had been expected of them: glossy, snappy and devoid of the crucial sector information which is essential to a true understanding of the business.

Once again BT trotted out its lame excuse that it is primarily a unitary business, opined that allocation of costs involved a degree of judgement and offered a breakdown of profits by services. What it does not give is the all-important split between the profits of the network and profits from equipment.

This is the key to assessing what, if any, cross-subsidization there is between the two activities. Little wonder that Professor Bryan Carsberg, Oftel's director general, is keen that BT provides the information as soon as possible.

The terms of BT's licence lay down that this segmental information should be provided as soon as is practicable and not later than April 1, 1987.

Three months ago Professor Carsberg wrote to BT asking it to provide him with a plan of how the company intended to implement the necessary accounting systems. So concerned is BT about the issue that it has still not given him an answer. A more sternly-worded letter is being prepared.

Oftel, whose standing as a regulating authority is at stake, is investigating allegations of cross-subsidization against BT. Segmental analysis would have an important bearing on the adjudication. It would also appear important for BT itself to have this information if it is to manage effectively. If Sir George Jefferson, BT's chairman, is serious when he says in his statement that he wants BT to be a "top class information technology business operating around the world", he will need top class accounting information.

Signs of seizure in money control

Detailed money supply figures for banking June reveal some hair-raising growth rates in the monetary aggregates. The annualized growth rate of M1, for example, has been 44.5 per cent in the last quarter, while PSL-1 has been expanding at 23 per cent on the same basis, much the same rate of expansion as the market's very own - and much loved - £M3. Even without the distortions of the last month's Abbey Life share sale, the upward pressure on virtually all the monetary dials is clear.

Yet the impression of expanding monetary growth is countered by one strange statistic in banking June's detailed figures. Net gilt sales by the Government Broker to the British private sector were actually zero, after redemption of the low coupon Treasury 3 per cent 1985, which had a nominal value of £1.2 billion. Granted that there must be something like a 10,000 to one chance against such a freak occurrence taking place, are the authorities trying to tell the market something? Is monetary policy really out of control?

Close examination of the trends of this year's monetary data certainly suggests that the authorities have been following a specific policy. But in the last banking month, their approach may well have come severely unstuck.

Net gilt sales appear to have been on a declining trend, with the monthly total slipping from a peak of £1.5 billion in banking February to £586 million in banking May and then zero in banking June. After incurring severe criticism for overfunding the PSBR, the authorities appear to have reverted to a policy of underfunding.

A concomitant attack on bank lending and the bill mountain would make sense. This the authorities may have tried to achieve. Striving lending to the private sector by the monetary sector appears to have dropped very sharply in the past four banking months, perhaps under the impact of high interest rates, declining from a peak of £2.3 billion in banking

March to last month's £0.9 billion. There were also stray signs that bill finance, the residual which accounts for total sterling bank lending to the British private sector, was also declining.

But both approaches may well have gone haywire during banking June. Judging by Table B in the detailed money supply figures, it is arguable that the foreigner came into the British gilt market in such strength that the Government Broker was forced to suspend whatever gilt sales he might have wanted to make, for monetary control purposes, because he could not be certain who was buying the stock. Hence the symbolic importance of last month's zero gilt sales.

Meanwhile, the bill mountain slipped up by a further £0.5 billion, highlighting the inherent instability of the current structure as soon as the authorities try to cut rates. The bill mountain creates a yield curve which discourages the clearers from cutting base rates. Moves to cut rates highlight the attractions of soft arbitrage, because of the backward slope in the yield curve, and underlying demand for credit increases.

If the scale of this week's shortages in the money markets are anything to go by, the process, once begun, is self feeding, implying in turn that all the benefit which the unwinding of last month's distorted figures might have conferred may be neutralized in banking July by high bank lending figures.

Limbering up for a dirty Fleet St fight

Fleet Holdings is fighting off the takeover bid from United Newspapers but its efforts have the appearance of shadow boxing while the bid remains hypothetical. Within a week the Monopolies & Mergers Commission will complete its report on the implications of United Newspapers' wish to take over the former Beaverbrook empire. The Secretary of State for Trade, Norman Tebbit, then has a month in which to decide whether he would give a bid his approval. United's chairman, David Stevens, unless he changes his mind and withdrew, would have a further three weeks in which to decide how much to offer.

Fleet's most recent blows to the head were directed via the Takeover Panel but have come right back at them. Lord Matthews and his advisers, Kleinwort Benson, suggested that Mr Stevens had turned himself into a one man concert party; as chairman of United Newspapers he was acting with himself as chairman of Montagu Investment Management in building up a stake in Fleet. After weeks of painful inquiry the Takeover Panel was not convinced and it issued a statement to that effect yesterday - a statement which Lord Matthews had agreed, although with evident reluctance. He later issued his own statement, questioning plural office-holding, the state of Chinese walls and the unfairness of having to be cast in a bid situation before a bid had been made.

Mr Stevens for his part, has declared his readiness to be deemed a concert party from March 25 last and play the appropriate tune. In this case an obligation to accompany any takeover bid with a cash offer. If he makes a bid before September 4, Mr Stevens will offer all shareholders a price of not less than 270 pence per share, underwritten for cash.

A pyrrhic victory for Lord Matthews, whose shares are currently 312p. Fleet could probably justify that price on the basis of its Reuters stake and Morgan Grampian business alone. The newspapers, with sales of around £300 million, have yet to produce profits to match. That is the attraction for David Stevens, but for others as well.

If the Monopolies Commission says yes to a bid, and the betting says it will, Mr Stevens could find himself competing against other newspaper barons, including Roland "Tiny" Rowland, and Lord Matthews would find little comfort in running to the Takeover Panel.

Baldrige backs 25% drop in dollar to revive US industry

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the United States Commerce Secretary, yesterday called for an additional 25 per cent decline in the dollar over the next 18 months to breathe life into the dormant manufacturing sector which is acting as a drag on other sectors of the slowing American economy.

The Commerce Secretary attempted to play down inflationary concerns, saying at a news conference: "The danger of inflation from a declining US dollar has been overstated."

Mr Baldrige's remarks coincided with the release of weak second quarter economic figures which showed that US gross national product grew by only 1.7 per cent, down sharply from the earlier administration "flash forecast" of 3.1 per cent.

Although his analysis had foreseen a downward revision in second quarter results, the fact that GNP growth was in the low end of what had been expected underscored the weakness of the US economy in the first half of the year when it grew at an annual rate of 1 per cent. Last year, the economy grew at an annual rate of 6.8 per cent.

Release of the GNP figures occurred as House-Senate negotiators confirmed that their divisive six-month effort to reach a deficit-reduction agreement had collapsed in an acrimonious exchange of political rhetoric. Congressional officials said they now doubted that any budget, outlying US spending priorities, could be passed this year, despite President Reagan's strong appeal for urgent action to reduce the massive \$200 billion (£141 billion) federal deficit.

At the same time, Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, added to exchange rate concerns yesterday in his second appearance before Congress, in which he gave a warning of the dangers to the US economy posed by a sharp, prolonged decline in the dollar.

Mr Volcker said attempts to correct the huge trade deficit by using monetary tools to bring down the dollar would be harmful and inflationary without simultaneous action to reduce the record budget deficit. In his second consecutive day



Malcolm Baldrige: "danger of inflation overstated"

of testimony on Capitol Hill, Mr Volcker also attempted to lay to rest rumours that he may resign early, saying: "I have no present plans to leave."

Both Mr Volcker and Mr Baldrige agreed, however, that the US economy is not headed for a recession but should pick up markedly in the second half of the year, growing in the 4 per cent range.

But Mr Baldrige separately sought to play down the inflationary aspect of a drop-

ping dollar, saying that he felt foreign manufacturers would absorb much of the dollar's decline instead of passing it on to buyers in the form of higher prices.

The dollar had already dropped by 12 per cent since February and US manufacturers would be helped significantly by a further 25 per cent decline, he claimed.

The latest GNP figures reflected the continuing decline in US exports, which has been accompanied by a big rise in imports attracted by the dollar, which is still an estimated 40 per cent above its depressed 1979-80 levels.

The Administration is conducting an urgent investigation into what appears to have been an early unauthorized leak to Wall Street of the second quarter GNP figures.

Mr Baldrige said: "We have some leads." He declined to comment further.

Early access to such information would give traders a big edge, allowing them to make large amounts of money based on what is in effect insider information.

Burton bid expected to succeed

By Patricia Wheatcroft

House of Fraser bought more shares in Debenhams yesterday, lifting its stake to 10.98 per cent.

Debenhams shares fell to 316p, 11p below the cash value of the new bid from Burton Group, but Burton shares also continued to slide, down from 458p to 448p. On Wednesday evening Burton's ally in the takeover battle, Habitat Monthercare, had attempted to buy up the Burton price by buying 300,000 shares at prices of up to 471p.

Yesterday the feeling in the City was that Burton was likely to succeed in its plans to take over the department chain, and the chairman, Mr Ralph Halpern, is working out how he will deal with the other main retailers involved, House of Fraser and Harris Queensway.

House of Fraser's chairman, Professor Roland Smith, has let it be known that he would have bid for Debenhams himself had it not been for the inevitable threat of Monopolies Commission. His stake is intended, if not to frustrate the Burton bid, then to give him some say in the future development of his rival, Debenhams.

Mr Halpern is already clear that he would not sell to House of Fraser those elements of the business which he would most like - Harvey Nichols, Hamleys and Welbeck Finance. What he would be more interested in is some exchange of individual department stores, perhaps enabling Fraser to off-load those stores which least fit its "Harrods" image.

US pension fund money for Davy

By Clare Dobie

Davy Corporation, the process plant contractor, is to receive £24 million from its American pension fund, which is to be wound up.

Taking cash out of pension funds is fairly common in the US, but not in Britain.

The fund has built up a surplus as a result of good investment performance, and a reduced workforce. The company has bought annuities for its pensioners and set aside a provision for salary increases so it can meet future liabilities. The provision amounts to £11.9 million, leaving £12.1 million, taken in as an extraordinary credit.

The company says its action in the US has no implications for Britain. Its pension fund here is well funded.

The company yesterday announced profits of £13.1 million, up from £7.53 million, before tax.

York Trailer bid advice withdrawn

By Alison Eadie

The decision by Phillips & Drew, the stockbrokers, to withdraw its recommendations for the £4.96 million bid for York Trailer from United Parcels has caused consternation on the York board.

Mr Fred Davies, chairman of York, said yesterday that the offer was agreed at the end of June on the basis of the recommendation from Phillips & Drew, the company's adviser. Four directors, including Mr Davies, who control 60 per cent of the shares, are now irrevocably committed to accept the bid.

Mr Davies said he was consulting his lawyers to see if there was any way of overturning the irrevocable acceptances and to see if there was any comeback against Phillips & Drew for its "most unfortunate advice".

Phillips & Drew changed its mind after York Trailer announced substantially higher than expected results for the half-year to the end of June.

Pretax profits were £592,000 against £258,000. Half-year profits were expected to be at least £425,000, as this was a condition of United Parcels bid.

Mr Alistair Alcock, a partner at Phillips & Drew, said an offer price of 45p a share seemed fair on the basis of four-month trading figures. Exceptionally good June trading altered the picture. Mr Alcock said it was not an open and shut case as business could turn down again in a volatile market and 45p was still the highest price for a very long time. The shares were 32p before the bid.

United Parcels is going ahead at the 45p offer price. The offer goes unconditional after 75 per cent acceptances.

Mr Davies said that York was being sold for less than its net worth and on an actual multiple of only four. The company has been picking up steadily from the depth of the recession in 1980, when it made a pretax loss of £2 million and the shares fell to 11p.

Evered buys stake in TI Group

By Cliff Feltham

A consortium led by Evered Holdings, the engineering group, and including wealthy Arabs, has picked up an 11.6 per cent stake in TI, the Midlands industrial group which makes Raleigh bicycles. Mr Ronald Utiger, chairman of TI said yesterday: "I view it all with bewilderment. I don't know what their intentions are but we are rather a large bite for them to contemplate."

Evered is run by the brothers, Raschid and Osman Abdullah, who have put the consortium together with the backing of Robert Fleming, the merchant bankers. It includes the Bid Laden family and Zahid Investments which between them own about 14 per cent of Evered.

At yesterday's closing price of 306p, up 18p, TI is valued at £180 million. Evered closed 18p up at 228p, at which it is worth £54 million.

Mr Raschid Abdullah said there were no plans to bid.

Gent shares fall to 62p

Shares in S. R. Gent, the women's clothes group which supplies Marks and Spencer, crashed from 90p to 62p yesterday after the company disclosed that it expected to have done no more than break even in the six months to June 30.

At the interim stage, up to December 31, Gent made profits of £900,000 and paid a dividend of 1p.

Yesterday's statement made it clear that the final payment is in danger of being passed altogether. The reason for the decline was said to be poor summer trading conditions.

Market report, page 19

HTV chairman

Mr Ron Wordley, aged 57, acting chairman of HTV since Lord Harlech's death in January, was confirmed in the post.

BET up £18m

British Electric Traction, the service group, has increased pretax profits to £103.5 million from £85.7 million for the year to March 31. A final dividend of 11.15p makes 14p for the year against 12p last time.

Tempos, page 19

The Guinness offer for Arthur Bell, the whisky company, closed for the first time yesterday with acceptances from holders of 5.04 per cent of Bell's shares. The Department of Trade and Industry is due to decide imminently whether the deal should be investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Distillers rise

The Distillers Company lifted profits from £192 million to £236 million before tax in the year to March. Turnover was up from £1,134 million to £1,274 million and the dividend was 15p against 13.7p.

Tempos, page 19

CAP's debut

CAP, a computer software systems company, is coming to the stock market via an offer for sale of 7.5 million shares at 120p each, valuing the company at £26.2 million. In the year to April 30 CAP lifted its pretax profits from £1.3 million to £2.1 million.

GUS ahead

Great Universal Stores lifted profits from £227 million to £254 million before tax in the year to March 31.

Tempos, page 19

Lonrho lifts profits to £70m

By William Kay
City Editor

Pretax profits of Lonrho, the mining, food, hotels and publishing group, rose from £53 million to £70.7 million in the half-year to the end of March, the company announced yesterday.

Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, the chief executive, disclosed that the improvement was achieved despite a fall of £8.2 million in the contribution from associated companies, to £16.6 million.

That is partly accounted for by the sale of Lonrho's 29.9 per cent stake in House of Fraser. The proceeds from that sale to the Al-Fayed family in November, form a large part of an extraordinary profit of £47.4 million. No profit or loss fell into this category at the interim stage last year, but it was not included in the pretax total.

For the second year running, Lonrho has increased its second interim dividend, from 3.5p to 4p, bringing the payment so far this year to 5p, against 4p before. Earnings per share were up from 8.9p to 10.5p.

Lonrho's share price fell 1p to 167p on the results. They are on course to meet analysts' forecasts of £160 million profits for the year.

Australian trust sale

CSR, the big Australian natural resources company, has invited offers for half of Delhi Australian Fund and Trusts, the oil and gas business for which it paid almost \$600 million US (\$429 million) only four years ago.

Mr Bryan Kelman, CSR's general manager, said yesterday that a number of leading oil companies were evaluating the

technical data from Delhi's 25 per cent interest in the Cooper Basin. He expected that bids could be in by early August and that a sale, if agreed, made by the end of September.

The sale would be part of the complicated restructuring of Delhi, designed to reduce as far as possible the trust's debts of \$900 million and free its \$300 million of retained profits for CSR.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	MAIN PRICE CHANGES	CURRENCIES
FT Ind Ord 832.8 (-0.8) FT-AI Share 802.04 (+1.14) FT Govt Securities 83.39 (-0.17) FT-SE 100 1248.6 (+1.3)	RISES: Stormguard 19p +2 1/2p Victoria Carpet 45p +5p Davy-Corp 108p +11p Star Computer 45p +4p Evered Holdings 228p +18p Petraco 130p +10p Relyon Grp 133p +10p Micro Focus 210p +15p Raspura 22p +1 1/2p Clyde Pab 73p +5p Northamber 128p +8p Multitone Etn 48p +3p Laird John "A" 258p +16p Crest Nicholson 104p +6p Greene King 174p +10p Aaronte Gp 70p +4p	London: £: \$1.4057 (-0.0065) £: DM 4.0352 (+0.279) £: SwFr 3.3305 (+0.0441) £: FF 12.2418 (+0.314) £: Yen 334.85 (+0.75) £ Index: 83.9 (+0.1)
Datstream USM 97.63 (+0.43) New York Dow Jones 1,355.73 (-2.24) Tokyo Nikkei Dow 1,355.06 (-2.91) Hong Kong Hang Seng 1,672.04 (+24.14) Amsterdam 218.1 (+3.0) Sydney: AO 822.2 (+9.4) Frankfurt Commerzbank 1,399.5 (+22.6) General Pariss CAC 219.3 (-0.3) Zurich SKA General 382.6 (+4)	FALLS: S. R. Gent 62p -28p Sunrise Clothes 28p -8p Barr & Wall, Am 120p -8p Standard Hldgs 119p -1p Pressac 81p -7p Falcon Resources 58p -5p Redlam Glas 88p -7p	New York: \$: £1.4057 \$: DM 2.8720 \$ Index: 137.8 (+1.1) ECU £0.559597 SDR £0.729577
GOLD	INTEREST RATES	
London fixing: am \$322.25-3m \$320.00 close \$320.00-\$320.50 (£227.50-228.00) New York: Comex (latest) \$320.55	London: Bank Base: 12% 3-month Interbank 11 1/2-11 3/4% 3-month eligible bills 11 1/2-11 3/4% buying rate US: Prime Rate 9.50% Federal Funds 7 1/4-7 1/2% 3-month Treasury Bills 7.13-7.11% Long bond 10 7/8-10 7 1/2%	

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Unit	Offer	Change	Ytd	Bid	Offer	Change	Ytd	Unit	Offer	Change	Ytd	Unit	Offer	Change	Ytd	Unit	Offer	Change	Ytd	Unit	Offer	Change	Ytd						
UNITED STATES FUND MANAGERS																													
General Inc.	108.8	117.8	..	4.34	High End Fund	78.0	84.1	..	4.23	DOVITY LONDON UNIT MANAGERS				LYONS BANK UNIT MANAGERS				Do Account				SAVILL & PROCTOR							
Do Account	148.1	107.4	..	-40.70	International Fund	142.5	105.8	..	-36.70	Westminster Inc., 77, London ECU 10A	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00
Do Account	148.1	107.4	..	-40.70	Do Account	142.5	105.8	..	-36.70	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00
Do Account	148.1	107.4	..	-40.70	Do Account	142.5	105.8	..	-36.70	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00
Do Account	148.1	107.4	..	-40.70	Do Account	142.5	105.8	..	-36.70	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00
Do Account	148.1	107.4	..	-40.70	Do Account	142.5	105.8	..	-36.70	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00
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Do Account	148.1	107.4	..	-40.70	Do Account	142.5	105.8	..	-36.70	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00
Do Account	148.1	107.4	..	-40.70	Do Account	142.5	105.8	..	-36.70	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00
Do Account	148.1	107.4	..	-40.70	Do Account	142.5	105.8	..	-36.70	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00
Do Account	148.1	107.4	..	-40.70	Do Account	142.5	105.8	..	-36.70	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00
Do Account	148.1	107.4	..	-40.70	Do Account	142.5	105.8	..	-36.70	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00
Do Account	148.1	107.4	..	-40.70	Do Account	142.5	105.8	..	-36.70	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..	0.00
Do Account	148.1	107.4	..	-40.70	Do Account	142.5	105.8	..	-36.70	Do Account	14.0	14.0	..																

INDUSTRY TODAY

CEGB hones its nuclear strategy

THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER FOR SALE AND THE STOCKS LISTED BELOW ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE DIRECT FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

ISSUES OF GOVERNMENT STOCK

The Bank of England announces that Her Majesty's Treasury has created on 17th July 1985, and has issued to the Bank, additional amounts as indicated of each of the following Stocks:

£200 million 11 per cent EXCHEQUER STOCK, 1989
£200 million 9½ per cent EXCHEQUER STOCK, 1998
£200 million 11½ per cent TREASURY STOCK, 2001-2004

The price paid by the Bank on issue was in each case the middle market closing price of the relevant Stock on 17th July 1985 as certified by the Government Broker.

In addition, Her Majesty's Treasury has created on 17th July 1985, and has issued to the National Debt Commissioners for public funds under their management, additional amounts as indicated of each of the following Stocks.

£200 million 10½ per cent EXCHEQUER STOCK, 1997
£100 million 9½ per cent EXCHEQUER STOCK, 1998

In each case, the amount issued on 17th July 1985 represents a further tranche of the relevant Stock, ranking in all respects *pari passu* with that Stock and subject to the terms and conditions of its prospectus (save as to the particulars therein which related solely to the initial sale of the Stock), and subject also to the provision contained in the final paragraph of this notice: the current provisions for Capital Gains Tax are described below.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for each further tranche of stock to be admitted to the Official List.

Copies of the prospectuses for 11 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1989, 9½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 1998 and 11½ per cent Treasury Stock, 2001-2004, dated 3rd August 1984, 3rd February 1984 and 18th May 1979 respectively, may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA. The Stocks are repayable at par, and interest is payable half-yearly, on the dates shown below:

Stock	Redemption Date	Interest payment dates
11 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1989	29th September 1989	29th March 1989, 29th September 1989
9½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 1998	19th January 1998	19th January 1998, 19th July 1998
11½ per cent Treasury Stock, 2001-2004	19th March 2004, or on or at any time after 19th March 2001 subject to not less than three months' notice	19th March 1998, 19th September 1998

The further tranches of 11 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1989 and 11½ per cent Treasury Stock, 2001-2004 will rank for a full six months' interest on the next interest payment date applicable to the relevant Stock. The further tranche of 9½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 1998 has been issued on an ex-dividend basis and will not rank for the interest payment due on 19th July 1985 on the existing Stock. Official dealings in the Stocks on The Stock Exchange are expected to commence on Friday, 19th July 1985.

Each of the Stocks referred to in this notice is specified under paragraph 1 of schedule 3 to the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 as a gilt-edged security (under current legislation exempt from tax on capital gains if held for more than 12 months, and, subject to enactment of the Finance Bill containing the provisions announced on 2nd July 1985, exempt from tax on capital gains on disposals made on or after 2nd July 1986, irrespective of the period for which the Stock is held).

Government statement

Attention is drawn to the statement issued by Her Majesty's Treasury on 29th May 1985 which explained that in the interest of the orderly conduct of fiscal policy, neither Her Majesty's Government nor the Bank of England or their respective servants or agents undertake to disclose tax changes decided on but not yet announced, even where they may specifically affect the terms on which, or the conditions under which, further tranches of stock are issued or sold by or on behalf of the Government or the Bank; that no responsibility can therefore be accepted for any omission to make such disclosure; and that such omission shall neither render any transaction liable to be set aside nor give rise to any claim for compensation.

BANK OF ENGLAND

LONDON
17th July 1985

Graham Searjeant looks at the CEGB's intense commitment to a pressurized water reactor strategy in advance of the Sizewell report.

The result of the inquiry into the Central Electricity Generating Board's plan to build a nuclear power station on the pressurized water reactor principle at Sizewell in Suffolk is not expected to be known until November, almost three years after it started. The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate does not expect to issue a licence for Sizewell B until early 1986.

On the face of it, therefore, it would seem far from certain that the board's original idea of opening up a PWR option for a later round of power station building, to add to its advanced gas-cooled reactors, would ever be realized, despite strong government support.

It is almost impossible, however, to overestimate the degree of commitment which the CEGB now has, not merely to Sizewell B, but to a whole series of PWRs. It hopes, and tends to assume, these will rapidly be allowed to follow once the Sizewell logjam has been broken. And with the prospect, it is increasingly engendering enthusiasm for the PWR among many of its traditional supporters.

That commitment stems partly from Sir Walter Marshall, brought into the CEGB to push through PWR development. His own conversion from British-designed AGRs to the simplicity of the Westinghouse design had given him the tireless zeal of the crusader. The commitment was spread, deepened and honed within the CEGB by the Sizewell inquiry itself. This required early refining of the design. Some £100 million has already been spent on the project and this will rise to £200 million by the end of year.

It also welded a team of senior CEGB people united by their need to satisfy the inquiry of the superiority of the PWR over the AGR. Mr John Baker, the CEGB's principal witness, is now chairman of the project management board. Mr Brian George, now head of the project management team, spent more time on the witness stand than anyone else.

One result has been that the PWR, far from being merely an option, has become the board's

exclusive ambition. Senior figures in the CEGB have consigned the AGR to the dustbin of history, so little recent development work has been done.

The CEGB's somewhat pessimistic line is that because NII standards have been moved on from the Heysham II station now under construction (and on time and budget), it would take three years to start an AGR at Sizewell even though there is basic permission to build one. Mr Ron Burbridge, chief executive of the management board, says it is possible the CEGB might still want to build an AGR on an inland site.

There seems little doubt, however, that if the go-ahead is given for a PWR at Sizewell, the AGR option will die, despite the commitment to maintain mothballed capacity, such as Northern Engineering Industries' plant at Gateshead, until the end of the decade.

The inquiry has had other, more positive effects. The structure of the Sizewell project management set-up at the National Nuclear Corporation site at Bournemouth, in Dorset, represents a drastic development of the CEGB's efforts to avoid the horrific cost and time overruns of recent power station projects.

In earlier nuclear stations, the National Nuclear Corporation and its predecessor consortia had undertaken turnkey projects and, later, split functions with the CEGB. Now the CEGB has full control and responsibility, with a project team of some 200 engineers drawn roughly half from the CEGB and half seconded from NNC.

New methods are being used. A £3 million 1:20 scale plastic model of the entire plant is allowing designers and contractors to iron out detailed problems that would previously have been visible only on site.

This is particularly helpful with pipework - the design and construction nightmare of a water-cooled reactor - and is reckoned to pay for itself if it saves a week's construction time.

Bechtel, the American group which designed the SNUPPS Calloway project, the reference plant for Sizewell B, supplied the idea of building a construction model on which installation times and the critical path for construction can be tested and practised with civil engineers.

The design process has been aided by bringing major com-

HOW THE NUCLEAR PLAN COULD AFFECT COAL

Rate of electricity output in megawatts (000s)	Now	2000-2005?
Base load nuclear powered	5	14
Base load coal-fired	10	6
Total base load	15	20
Variable load coal-fired	8	10
Variable load oil-fired	1	-
Total variable load	9	10
Total average output rate of which coal-fired	24	30
	18	16

Figures derived by The Times from CEGB plans and industry demand projections.

tractors on to the site. Westinghouse is shortly expected to arrive at Bournemouth, once it has formally agreed its joint company with the NNC (initially dominated by Westinghouse) to handle the main part of the plant.

The ordering process itself is an innovation. The project has been split into a series of main packages, chiefly in the £100-£250 million range, with main contractors responsible for procurement within their area.

While the inquiry's chairman, Sir Frank Layfield, ponders his report, three of the top four have been settled: turbines to GEC, high integrity pipework (the biggest single work contract) to the Babcock-Whitworth group and the basic reactor circuit to Westinghouse. This will be extended to the whole nuclear steam supply system in about two months, provided Westinghouse completes its deal to bring in the NNC on the equally new risk-taking fixed price contract basis. Decisions on the main civil works contract are due in the autumn and the £7 million pressure vessel has gone to Framatome of France.

The CEGB has virtually no credibility for efficient power station construction and is desperate to make a success of Sizewell B. Recent news that the Calloway plant has produced at a cumulative 81 per cent of capacity is a fillip for the design. The Sizewell case was based on 64 per cent. But the main challenge would be to build the plant on time and to its updated budget of £1.35 billion. Depressed markets for components are in its favour.

Design modifications have been kept to a minimum, though there have been many detailed changes to satisfy the NII, larger buildings to aid access and two turbines instead of one to stick with standard UK sizes.

After less than a year on preliminary site work, the board is aiming at 66 months for the main construction. This is tight

by American standards and way better than average. But it compares with 45 months achieved recently on a similar station in Japan.

Mr George is ready to go as soon as the starting pistol is fired and still hopes for electricity in 1992. More cautious observers would be content with mid-1994.

The board's thoughts, however, have already turned to the series of follow-on PWRs. A further four are pencilled in, to follow Sizewell as soon as possible at yearly intervals. Although the CEGB suggests it will need 9,000 megawatts of new capacity by the end of the century, no one is pretending this is the motive. Rather, the board is anxious to build a reputation for economical construction of cheap capacity on the back of the Sizewell development work before the NII upgrades its standards again.

Ironically, the design is likely to be rapidly outdated. The US industry is getting together to produce an improved standard design for orders which it hopes will finally restart after 1990. This is likely to follow the advanced PWR Westinghouse, which has big advantages over Sizewell.

Sir Walter clearly wants a lot more than the "small family" of Sizewell replicas, perhaps 10 or even a dozen PWRs. His aim is to provide most of the base load of CEGB capacity from nuclear plants (including the existing AGRs) by the early 2000s. This might mean less than 30 per cent of capacity, but could have a much greater impact on the coal industry.

Electricity usage varies sharply between daily and seasonal peaks and troughs, so capacity is split into base load, operated continuously near full blast when available, and the much larger balance which is used only as required. Nuclear, with its high capital and low running costs, is ideal for base load, while expensive oil stations are normally hardly

use. Base load accounts for a much bigger share of output than of capacity.

The table shows what could happen on a modestly optimistic projection of electricity demand and the CEGB hopes that it can even out peaks and troughs somewhat. It is a rough illustration, not a forecast. On that basis, coal consumption would drop from around 75 million tonnes a year to nearer 67 million, assuming virtually all the oil-fired stations were phased out. But demand for coal would depend critically on marginal electricity demand. If usage rose less or oil prices fell sharply to nearer 50 million tonnes. That would happen anyway if further PWRs were built after 2005, since there would be no Magnox or oil stations to replace. Sir Walter says that is a political decision.

Hard political choices could come earlier: between possibly cheap power and the mining industry and between heavy investment and a CEGB heavy reliance on privatization. The case for a rapid small PWR family - as opposed to orders at two-year intervals - would depend on notoriously difficult and conflicting demand forecasts.

That will have implications for the British power engineer-

ing industry. The politics of Sizewell have provided some compensation for the lack of AGR orders caused by the CEGB's switch to PWR and the delay of the inquiry. The Westinghouse factor has made it politic to encourage British component firms and gave time for suppliers to gear up their quality. With CEGB encouragement, more than 90 per cent of the order value for a Sizewell PWR would go to British suppliers.

In the meantime, however, it has become clear that Lord Weinstock's old dreams of an NNC transformed into a turnkey supplier of PWRs for export has all but disappeared, even if as planned, the NNC takes a progressively greater share of the joint company with Westinghouse. Competition for limited orders is too cut-throat, and too many markets are tied up. The best that British companies can hope for in export markets is to win £200 million packages geared to British finance or more realistically, a share in maintenance and component work on existing Westinghouse plants. That makes their prospects for continuing PWR business heavily dependent on the Marshall plan.

The details in this advertisement were incorrect in yesterday's edition. The correct announcement is as follows:

Bank of Ireland

announces that with effect

from close of business

on 17th July 1985

its Base Rate for lending

is reduced from

12¾% to 12%

per annum



THE BRITISH & COMMONWEALTH SHIPPING COMPANY PLC

At the Annual General Meeting on July 18th the Chairman, Lord Cayzer, made the following remarks which are supplementary to his statement which accompanied the Accounts:

It is thirty years this year since B & C was founded, and it is a good moment to look back as well as forward. One is struck by how much it has changed. Formed as a Company to run the ships of Union-Castle and Clan Line we had over a hundred ships, of which seventeen were major passenger ships. The process of diversification gathered pace in the sixties, mainly into aviation related activities, and continued in the seventies and eighties, so that now B & C is very widely spread. We foresaw the fundamental changes in our basic business of shipping and we have been able to adapt reasonably successfully to those changes.

My Chairman's Statement paints a picture of the way we have changed. It draws attention to the fact that the attributed income from Associates and income from investments far outweigh the profit from directly controlled operations. All the operations undertaken have shown a reasonable return, with one exception - direct shipping, our original business. OCL made a good profit, and we received a satisfactory dividend from Safren - the Company comprising Salmarine and Fernies which, like us, is changing in character, with a large investment in land based operations and in hotels. Referring to Safren it is with the deepest regret that I record the recent death of its Chairman and Managing Director, Mr Marmion Marsh. He was an outstanding leader, and his loss at a comparatively young age is a cruel blow to ourselves, to Safren and to South Africa itself.

Of our subsidiaries many have grown, like Bristow Helicopters, into very substantial businesses in their own right and several, for example aviation support services, hotels and office equipment, are seen as having potential for further growth. Our Associate Companies, which already make such a large contribution, have exciting prospects, from Exco in financial services to - as a long shot - Celltech in the field of biotechnology. So all in all we have much to be thankful for, and a future that beckons.

It is perhaps appropriate at this stage if I touch upon the matters which are due to come before you as shareholders at the Extraordinary General Meeting to be held during the course of next week. You will have received my explanatory letter regarding the proposed acquisition of minority interests in the four Companies - Bristow Helicopter Group, Air Holdings, British Air Transport (Holdings) and St. Mary Axe Holdings, together with the document comprising listing particulars required in connection with the issue of new share capital.

The decision to acquire these interests arose as a result of Mr. Alan Bristow's wish, after announcing his intention to retire as Chairman and Chief Executive, to sell his remaining shareholding in his Company. In consequence thereof and although we greatly valued our direct association with Eagle Star Insurance in aviation and related activities over a period of many years, both we and they agreed that it would make good sense to effect a degree of 'tidying up' by means of an exchange of shares. I wish to thank them most sincerely for their support in this general area of aviation since the very early days in Air Holdings and for all which flowed from that.

There then seemed to us some merit in endeavouring to deal at the same time with the one remaining major minority shareholding, and proposals have been made to acquire the outside interests in St. Mary Axe Holdings.

These proposals seem to have been well received by informed comment and, although not really a matter for this meeting as such, I feel that I should not let them pass entirely without comment on this annual occasion.

I am always conscious at this time of the year of the great contribution made by all who work in the Group, and to them I record my grateful thanks.

A Company does not work in a vacuum. It is affected by the political and economic climate in this country and in the world. Great Britain is gradually and painfully doing as B & C had to do, diversifying away from the old basic industries into new ventures and new ideas, clearing up the legacy of the past and putting its house in order. This involves deep problems; we need the skills to man the new industries and the mobility and flexibility to meet the challenges. This means major changes in our distribution of people and resources, changes in our educational and social structure as fundamental as we faced in the nineteenth century. In the process we have large - too large - numbers of unemployed and yet, despite technological change, numbers actually in employment are said to have risen. The difference lies partly in more women seeking work and partly, in no small degree, to the number of people who have entered this country since the War ended. Nor can one see an early improvement in this, as the overmanning and inefficiencies of the past continue to be shaken out. Furthermore, the over-high proportion of our national product in government services continues to show a stubborn resistance to all efforts to swing resources to industrial renewal and production. It is a hard road and harder for a small company, perhaps too preoccupied with its past and not enough with its future.

We should also never forget that it is inflation which is the real enemy of peace and employment. It is a cancer that can destroy a nation. Sir Harold Wilson termed inflation "the father and mother of unemployment", and President Mitterand has said much the same. It is a world phenomenon, deadly in its effect. The temptation of some political parties to reflate must be resisted.

I am sure our Government is alive to how its problems arise and is facing up to them, but what has happened over so many years takes time to change. Nevertheless, change is here and can be seen. People are beginning to understand that a country has to pay its way or go under, and that without a thriving economy great expectations cannot be fulfilled. If there was an easy answer to our problems it would have been tried long ago. The country's future lies in good housekeeping, a readiness to change and an eye for opportunity.

So far as your Company is concerned I remain confident regarding the outlook for 1985.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	1984	1983
Year ended December 31		
Profit before taxation	66,218	58,528
Profit before extraordinary items	30,812	30,312
Shareholders' funds	293,085	249,719
Earnings per ordinary stock unit of 10p	17.3p	17.0p
Dividends per ordinary stock unit of 10p	4.0p	3.5p

For a copy of the Report & Accounts telephone 01-263 4343. Ext. 138, or write to the Company at Cayzer House, 2 & 4 St. Mary Axe, London, EC3A 8BP.

Distillers

PRELIMINARY RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1985

- ☐ Group profit up 23% before tax
- ☐ Record exports of £473 million
- ☐ Trading profit of £45 million from overseas companies

	1985 £ million	1984 £ million
TURNOVER	1,274.3	1,134.1
TRADING PROFIT	233.2	181.6
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	236.2	191.6
TAXATION	(102.9)	(63.3)
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAXATION	133.3	128.3
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR	125.8	118.8
DIVIDENDS		
Interim dividend paid	16.3	16.3
Final dividend proposed	38.1	33.2
	(54.4)	(49.5)
TRANSFER TO DEFERRED TAXATION	-	(60.3)
PROFIT RETAINED	71.4	9.0
EARNINGS PER SHARE	36.71p	35.35p
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE		
Interim dividend paid	4.50p	4.50p
Final dividend proposed	10.50p	9.15p
	15.00p	13.65p

The Distillers Company plc

What do you get from a share in Britoil?

A share in one of the country's leading oil and gas companies.

And one of the world's largest companies engaged primarily in exploration and production.

Britoil has the greatest share of exploration acreage of any company on the UK Continental Shelf.

In November 1982, Britoil became a publicly quoted company when the Government sold 51% of its shares to the public.

Since then, Britoil's growth and achievements have been impressive.

Now the Government has decided to offer its remaining shares for sale. And, as in the past, it intends to give private individuals, not just City institutions, a full opportunity to apply for shares.

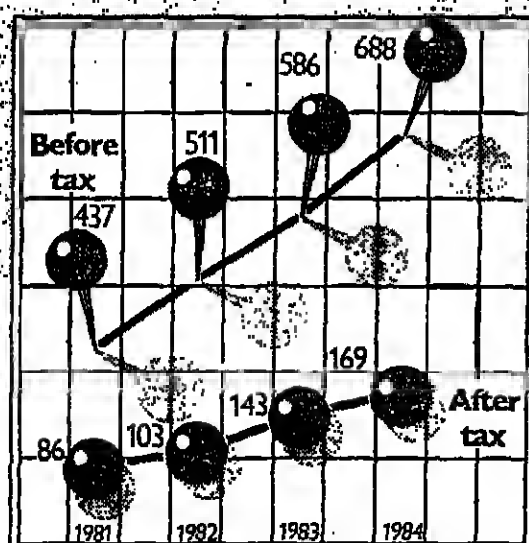
In the latest offshore UK licensing round, Britoil was awarded 19 blocks, the largest number awarded to any applicant in that round.

Subject to market conditions, the offer is planned for the end of this month. There will be just seven days to make an application for shares before the offer closes early in August.

The Offer for Sale document and application forms will be published in many national newspapers.

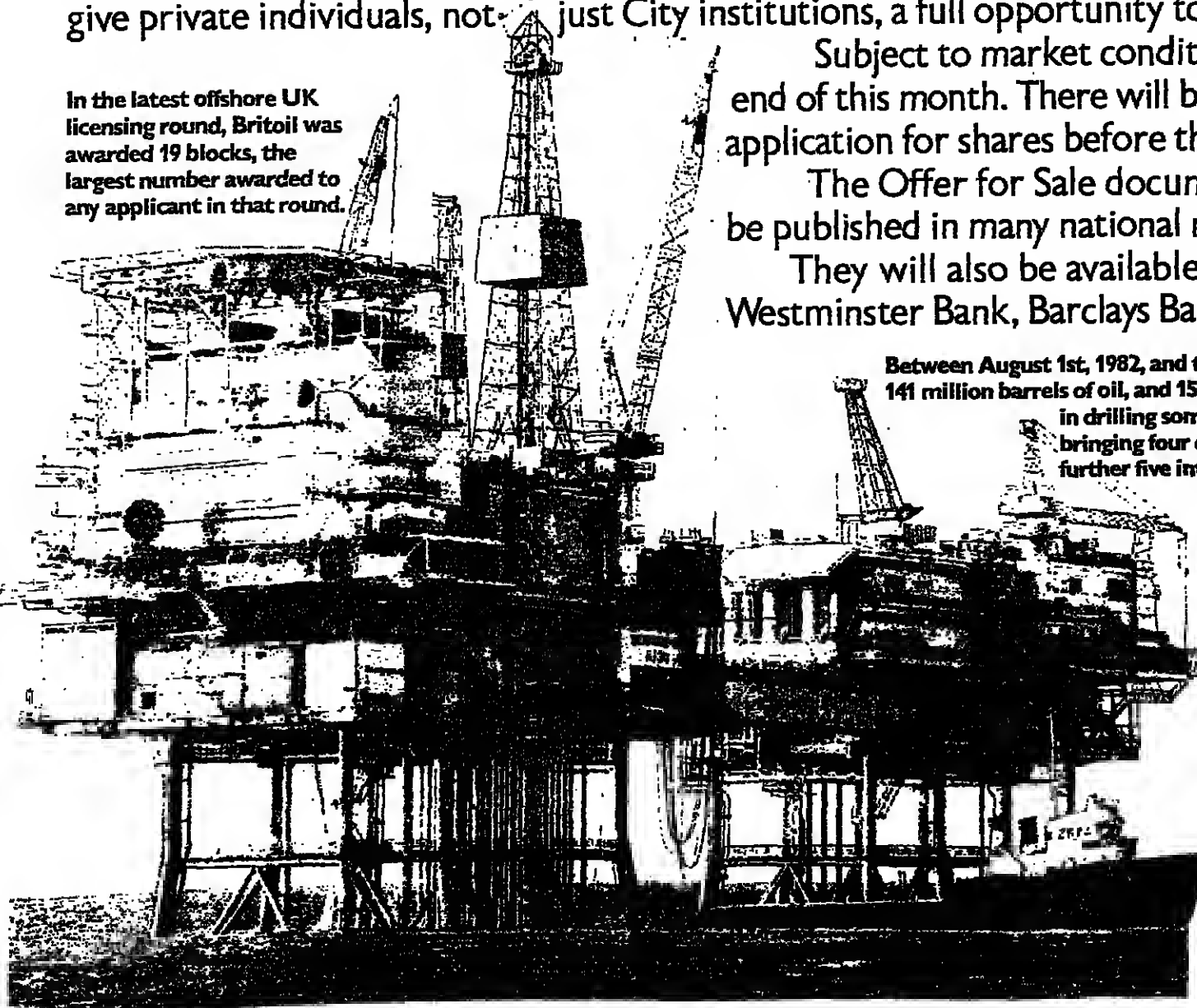
They will also be available from all branches of National Westminster Bank, Barclays Bank and the Bank of Scotland.

Between August 1st, 1982, and the end of last year alone, Britoil produced 141 million barrels of oil, and 158 billion cubic feet of gas. It also participated in drilling some 120 exploration and appraisal wells and in bringing four offshore UK fields into production and a further five into development.



Britoil has built up a first class team of exploration, project development and field operating staff led by experienced management.

Since 1981, after-tax profits have virtually doubled. The figures for 1981 and the first seven months of 1982 reflect those of the business transferred from BNOC to Britoil on 1st August, 1982.



Please send me more information about Britoil and reserve my copy of the Offer for Sale document, without obligation.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Send to: Britoil plc,
P.O. Box 5000, Bristol, BS99 1GB.

Britoil

SOON, THE REMAINING 49% OF BRITOIIL SHARES ARE TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE.

Issued by Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited on behalf of H.M. Government.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Stan Mendham, director of the Forum for Private Business, was prepared to see how the Government efforts worked out. He said: "Preferably there should not be too much of the way of legislative teeth but if it proves not to have the right amount of bite, the task force must be given teeth very quickly."

The burden of VAT administration is still the biggest single problem for small businesses. The hope of getting anything done to raise the £19,500 threshold at which small businesses are caught in the VAT net still lies with Lord Young's attempts to persuade the rest of the EEC that the threshold should be more flexible.

Lord Young, due for more talks around Europe this year, seems hopeful that attitudes are changing. He said: "Europe now has another priority - employment."

As appeal for established companies to second more experienced executives to help local enterprise agencies and similar community efforts to aid small business came this week from Stephen O'Brien, chief executive of *Business in the Community*.

BIC is the umbrella body for enterprise agencies, which number more than 200 around the country.

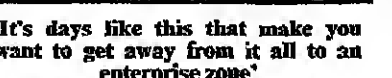
Some companies, among them BP, British Rail and IBM, have recently decided to increase their secondment programmes substantially, he said. But BIC calculates that 200 more secondaries are urgently needed.

Mr O'Brien said: "We need, as a priority, to increase the number of skilled business people available. Only the business sector has the skills and experience that fledgling enterprises need to acquire.

"Making people available for this work is sound corporate sense."

It is claimed that enterprise agencies are already helping to create 50,000 jobs a year and safeguarding another 25,000 jobs.

Mr O'Brien added: "The question is what contribution enterprise agencies could make if they were properly and securely resourced so that they could cope with the potential demand for their services throughout the country."



100

ATHLETICS: BUDD MEETS SLANEY AT CRYSTAL PALACE BUT NOT AT PRESS CONFERENCE

Coe must be 1,500m co-favourite with Cram

By Pat Butcher

Sebastian Coe will not underestimate the magnitude of his task this evening should Steve Cram, the new world 1,500 metres record holder, decide to race against him in the Peugeot Talbot 1,500 metres at Crystal Palace.

Coe, who beat Cram to the Olympic title last year, pointed out yesterday that Cram's 3min 29.67sec in Nice on Tuesday, which took 1.1sec off Steve Owen's record, constituted the best time ever in the distance since Filbert Bayi ran his marvellous solo to win the Commonwealth Games final in 1974 and break Jim Ryan's record.

"Steve Owen, Sydney Maree and myself have only just judged the record down a fraction at a time," Coe said. "Steve Cram has now taken the time to where it stood in 1981, which was also a post-Olympic year when he beat Owen, exchanging 1,500 metres and mile records."

Coe did not say that tonight could see a continuation of Wednesday's record breaking but, if the same conditions of temperature and pressure apply as it did between Cram and Said Aouita in Nice, another world record is not beyond the bounds of the imagination despite Cram's disclaimer that world records do not happen in Britain, principally because of inhuman winds in stadia like Crystal Palace.

Should the world record be broken, there will be £50,000 for the feat from Mumm Champagne. The last time a British world record was set at home was 12 years ago when Dave Bedford ran 27min 30.3 sec for 10,000 metres.

Cram suspected that a mental anti-climax might set in after Tuesday's achievement, as he had done after Oslo two weeks ago, when he ran 3min 31.46sec, then the third fastest ever. But Coe felt that the renewed media pressure would "keep Cram on his toes". And the chance of avenging that Olympic defeat - when Cram was less than fully fit because of injury - must appeal to him, especially if he could achieve it in tandem with Tuesday's world record and a possible new one.

There was another glimpse of Coe's new, relaxed attitude when he said: "Any betting man would have to make Cram the favourite." But there will not be too many sharp-shinned Chelsea FC supporters' pals crumpling into the Fulham Road bookmakers who will take that advice. Coe's sole 1.44 for 800 metres alone would suggest that he is not far from 1.50 for the 1,500. At worst, if you will excuse the expression, he must be co-favourite.

High hopes for a soap opera that could fall flat on its face

Simon Barnes

"It was the best bit of the whole Olympics," said Eddie, pouring himself a White Shield in the Two Brewers. "The Budd-Decker business. I mean. The two people I hate most in sport - and they fouled it up together."

Even if you don't quite go along with Eddie here, you know what he means. There is something rather awful about both of them, and that little moment in Los Angeles was something of a crash made in heaven: the over-made-up siren of the jogging generation, with her all-American teeth, brought low by little Zola, the plaything of politicians and newspapermen, flying under her flag of convenience as Britain happily sets itself up as the Liberia of the athletics world.

I have always felt that Miss Decker - now Mrs Slaney since she married an absolutely enormous Brit - looks like a character in a soap opera. Now she is one. Yesterday she even referred to the ratings-topping Budd-Decker happenings as "a saga". "There is something a little theatrical about it," she added.

Mrs Slaney has just made her grand entrance into London: the crash made in heaven has become a match made with cheque-books, and tomorrow we will have Son, or perhaps Daughter of Los Angeles, the Budd-Decker re-match at Crystal Palace. Alan Pascoe, the promoter, described it as "one of the big personality races of the century". It all began to feel rather more like wrestling than athletics: Mary "Toothsome" Decker against Zola "Killer-fect" Budd - any one want a t-shirt?

So there was Madame Slaney to face the cameras and the questions, looking large as life, and at least twice as natural, the big brown eyes of the world's sexiest athlete painstakingly outlined in black. "So the business in Los Angeles is all forgotten and forgiven, Mary?" The lips curved minutely. "I may forgive," she said. "I don't forget." She has lost none of the

ability that won her the title "Whiner of the Year" in the United States.

Of course, the whole exercise is rather devalued by the absence of Maricica Puica, the Olympic champion, but at least her absence means that no one is going to get confused, and start thinking that the even is all about the fact that soap operas top the ratings. "But the attention the event is getting can only be good for women's athletics," she said.

Her race-plan is to go for a good time, perhaps as low as 8min 25sec for the 3,000 metres, to run from the front if no one else does, and "to stay clear of certain feet". She added: "I think Zola is a good athlete, but under tremendous pressure. In fact, if I was in charge of her training, I probably wouldn't allow her to run competitively at all this year. The pressure is detrimental. It can ruin you."

After Mrs Slaney had made her glittering exit, and they had sent a man to mop up all the charm she had oozed, we had the surprise appearance of Miss Budd, looking rather nice and wearing a blue woolly with a doggy on it. Even Eddie wouldn't hate her for herself.

We have all read recently that Miss Budd has "admitted" the crash was all her fault. But the story, lifted from a television interview (done exclusively for an American telly station, naturally), was, she says, taken out of context. "Both of us were to blame."

After the crash, with the boos echoing round the stadium, she said she made the decision not to run for a medal. She didn't want to face the crowd from the rostrum, "and I just didn't feel like running any more", she said.

Miss Budd is not expected to win this one either. She has had a couple of recent defeats, in Belfast and Helsinki. "I ran two



A lap with a difference: Mrs Slaney and her husband yesterday (Photograph: John Voss)

bad races. I'm physically better prepared than ever before. I don't think I can win. Her times are a lot better than mine this year, there is an eight second difference. But then, anything can happen in a race."

She should know.

Up to yesterday evening, only 6,000 of the 16,500 tickets for the Budd-Slaney re-match tomorrow, had been sold. One reason for the slow sales could be that originally the women's 3,000 metres was to have been run today and people bought tickets accordingly - all but 350 tickets for today have been sold.

When the Talbot Games meeting was extended to cover

two days and the Budd-Slaney re-match moved to the Saturday, many Friday ticket-holders are a lot better than mine this year, there is an eight second difference. But then, anything can happen in a race."

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When the Talbot Games meeting was extended to cover

Hinault holds court as he rests before taking Paris by storm

From John Wilcockson, Bordeaux

Bernard Hinault loves to do things in style. Yesterday evening, two hours after he had finished the 22nd on the 19th stage of the Tour de France, Hinault visited the Bordeaux exhibition centre.

Whistles blew as the Frenchman arrived in the large-sized building, converted for the day into the Tour de France Press room. A motorbike rumbled across the floor with a smiling Hinault riding pillion, dressed in blue shorts, a red and white sports shirt and a flamboyant straw hat.

Within seconds, half of the 40 journalists following the sporting hero had their word processors and typewriters to hand around the blue folding chair on which Hinault sat himself. Michael Laurent, the Press relations man of Hinault's La Vie Claire team, said the purpose of the Press conference was to give everyone a chance of questioning the French cyclist, who will almost certainly win the race which finishes in Paris on Sunday.

Hinault should clinch his success in the final time trial which takes place in Limoges tomorrow afternoon. "Consequently, Laurent said, "Hinault will be too busy to answer your questions before the finish in Paris."

There have been many questions asked this week about Hinault's apparent declining form in the mountains. Typically, the Breton dismissed his questions last night by saying: "My form has improved all the way through this Tour de France. I am riding better now than when I started, even though I won the prologue."

When the questioner pursued his theme and asked Hinault if he had

received support from Luis Herrera, the Colombian climber, when he faltered on the climb of the Aubisque Pass on Wednesday morning, Hinault replied: "The Colombian has been suffering from tendonitis on his left heel. That is why he was dropped by Stephen Roche on the climb, and that is why he was left slightly by the chasing group at the same time as me."

It has been said that because Herrera worked with Hinault in their winning climb on the first Alpine stage nine days ago, on stage that Herrera won, that the Colombian was helping the race leader in the Pyrenees this week. Because of their obvious friendship, Herrera may join Hinault in his team next year. Asked about this, the Frenchman said: "I already have Canadian, an American, two Danes, some Swiss, some Frenchmen and Bretons in my team. There is no reason why I shouldn't have the South American as well."

Hinault has been the centre of attention many times in the past three weeks. He held a press conference in Brittany before the race started and another on the first day near Grenoble, when his positive potential was assured. Two days ago in the tiny Place de la Mairie at Laruns, he was circled closely by journalists wanting to know his apparent weakness in Wednesday's mountain stage was an indication that he might lose the tour. His face blackened and his eyebrows bleached from sunburn in the past two months, Hinault denied the suggestion, smiling broadly as he spoke.

MOTOR RACING: PREVIEW OF BRITISH GRAND PRIX

Elusive goal for UK drivers

By John Blunsden

Michele Alboreto, who leads the world championship table, and Elio de Angelis and Alain Prost, who are lying second, view Sunday's Marlboro British Grand Prix at Silverstone as another step towards their aim of becoming world champion for the first time.

But Britain's four Formula One drivers have a more modest goal - to win their first grand prix.

Nick Mansell, Derek Warwick, Jonathan Palmer and Martin Brundle have yet to stand centre stage on the victory rostrum at the end of a world championship Formula One race. Palmer and Brundle have already done so, but Mansell and Warwick are relative veterans and firmly established as potential race winners. Yet that first remains frustratingly elusive.

Much depends on being in the right car on the day and last year both drivers looked as though they had managed it - at least once. In Brazil, in his first race for Renault, Warwick found himself in the lead, when, with 10 laps to go, his front suspension broke. His car has rarely looked as competitive since. Five races later, in rain-drenched Monaco, Mansell's Renault-powered JPS Lotus was the car to beat, but after five laps in the lead Mansell was overtaken by a Ferrari and out of the race.

A driver's first grand prix win is invariably the most difficult of all to score. Only 10 of the 25 competing drivers have already scored a grand prix win, and significantly, nine of them, having cleared that vital first hurdle, went on to score their second, usually quite quickly. The Argentine, who won the Argentine Grand Prix in April, is a driver of such formidable talent that it is not a question whether he will win again but rather where and when.

John Watson was the most recent British driver to win a grand prix - at Long Beach, California, in 1982. The last Englishman to do so was James Hunt, in 1977. His first success had been two years earlier, when he won the British Grand Prix at Silverstone. Since then, Niki Lauda's quicker Ferrari to the line in The Netherlands.

That was an important win for me psychologically, not just because it was my first grand prix success, but because it finally proved I could handle the pressure. Previously I had thrown races away because I couldn't handle the pressure of leading, and concentrating on doing everything exactly right, leaving Niki to worry about finding a way past. Fortunately he didn't.

Mansell sliding off at Monaco is probably a good example of the sort of pressure a driver is under while it takes that first win. Although my victory at Zandvoort didn't make it any easier for me to get into a winning position again, it did give me a new confidence and as a result I never felt under the same pressure again."

Since then of Britain's continued to be counted the favourite on Sunday, that pressure is removed from them. Mansell, pronounced fit to race after the concussion he received in France, has the momentum of a newly formed team, and boosting news that Frank Williams

has signed him for 1986, also that the latest Williams-Ford is in tip form.

Warwick has a new lightweight Renault RE50B for the first time, which should help restore his competitiveness. Brundle is still getting to grips with turbo-charged engines, but his Tyrrell better than Paul Ricard. While Palmer there is the hope that the

front runners may break down and the Zakspeed will keep going and pick up a point or two in only its fifth race.

Sports officials in Mexico City confirmed that a Formula One race - the first in Mexico for 15 years - will be held here on October 12. The site will be the autocircuit in the so-called Sports City athletic complex.

Silverstone seekers

MARTIN BRUNDLE
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YACHTING

Jade leaves rivals in novice class

By John Nicholls

After a convincing win in the fourth race of the One Ton Cup at Poole yesterday, Larry Woodell's Jade is now the overall leader, on points, for the series. She came unscathed through an untidy race over an Olympic 3.50 mile course, of which six of the first 10 boats were flying protest flags. Some of the collisions while rounding marks were easily avoidable, yet the world-class helmsmen, who had led to a few changes in both the race results and the overall positions, but nothing is likely to change Jade's leadership. Today's final race of the series is a 3.50-mile offshore slog, which is planned to finish on Sunday.

Next winter's competition will be for the Deane Cup, a trophy for the 205 eligible clubs, 198 - a record number - have entered. The semi-final race of the series is a 3.50-mile offshore slog, which is planned to finish on Sunday.

It is McCarthy & Stone's second venture in bows sponsorship. Earlier in the year they sponsored their national outdoor mixed pairs competition for 1985, the first collaboration at this level between the men's and women's national associations. There were 2,500 entries and several hundred had to be sent back. The finals are at the Hove and Kingsway Club, Hove, on September 21 and 22, with £5,000 in prize-money.

FENCING: Olympic champions West Germany won the women's team foil world championship for the first time when they beat Hungary 9-5 in the final in Barcelona.

The West Germans had been runners-up on ten previous occasions.

Another crew to lose time yesterday were the class V leaders, Pierre Le Maout and Antoine Pouliouen, when the maelstrom on the tidal river, Macallan Festival de Lorient, ripped apart as they were heading out from Lorient to Lowestoft into an uncomfortable sea.

To stay within striking distance of the eight-day, 15-hour time set by Colt Cars in this race three years ago, Whipple and his crew had to arrive at Lowestoft between four and five this morning, but the changing conditions last night made this look unlikely.

TENNIS

Krickstein uneasy in DC

Aaron Krickstein, who retrained his place in the United States Davis Cup team on Wednesday, almost lost his place in the DC National Bank Classic the same night. He just avoided joining the five seeds who have already fallen by beating Jimmy Brown in the second round.

Krickstein will fill one of the angles places in the unchanged team to meet the American team from August 3 to 4. Eliot Teltscher will fill the other angles place; Ken Flach and Robert Seguso will play the doubles.

The selectors have overlooked the claims of South African-born Kevin Curren, who became an American citizen in March. Curren rose to seventh in the world rankings, ahead of Krickstein and Teltscher, after reaching the Wimbledon quarter-finals in June. Among the Americans' opponents in the West German team is likely to be Boris Becker, who beat Curren in the final, and is now back in training in Crans-

Krickstein: place retained

Montana after recovering from an ankle injury.

Andrea Gomez, the holder, was the fifth seeded player to fall in the Washington tournament. Limping heavily after apparently re-injuring his thigh, he went down 6-4, 7-6, 3-6 to Pablo Arraya of Peru.

BOWLS

Housing firm go indoors

By Gordon Allan

Sponsorship of the English indoor club championship has passed from the hands of the housing firm of McCarthy & Stone. It was announced in London yesterday. They are putting £16,000 into the McCarthy & Stone championship, formerly known as the Deane Cup, including £1,000 for the winners and £11,400 for the travel and hotel expenses of all teams from the quarter-finals onward.

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To stay within striking distance of the eight-day, 15-hour time set by Colt Cars in this race three years ago, Whipple and his crew had to arrive at Lowestoft between four and five this morning, but the changing conditions last night made this look unlikely.

IN BRIEF

Bulgaria bring on their substitutes

Vienna, Austria (AP) - Bulgaria yesterday announced two new first division soccer clubs, Sredets and Vitosha, to replace ones ordered disbanded by the ruling Communist Party after a chaotic championship match marred by fouls and expulsions. Levski and CSKA were dissolved after the national cup final in June which CSKA won 4-0. The match was interrupted several times by fighting, fouls and injuries. Three players were sent off and six others received warnings, reports said.

Davie Cooper, Scotland's international winger, signed a new three-year contract with Rangers yesterday, ending speculation he was about to leave. Former Scottish star Tommy Hutchison has left Burnley, and is expected to re-join his former Manchester City manager, John Bond, now at Swansea.

ATHLETICS: Jürgen Hingsen, the Olympic and World Championship decathlon silver medalist, faces an agonising wait to know whether his season is finished after being injured in training yesterday.

The 27-year-old West German, runner-up to Britain's Daley Thompson at both the Los Angeles Olympics last year and the 1983 World Championships in Helsinki, twisted his left ankle during discus practice.

SHOOTING

Bradfield's Shield with record score

By Our Shooting Correspondent

Bradfield college won the Ashburton Shield public schools team rifle championship at Bisley yesterday for the second time in five years and with a record score of 523.

Quintle led at 200 yards with 264. Bradfield, two points behind, pulled ahead on the 300-yard section to win by two points. Both schools improved on last year's record of 521.

RESULTS: Ashburton Shield Shield public schools team rifle championship. 1. Bradfield (523), 2. Quintle (521), 3. Epsom (518), 4. Gurney (516), 5. Gurney (516), 6. Gurney (516), 7. Gurney (516), 8. Gurney (516), 9. Gurney (516), 10. Gurney (516).

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Entitlement to stock relief

Fraser (Inspector of Taxes) v London Sports Car Centre Ltd

Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Nourse

Judgment delivered July 10

Alfa Romeo cars obtained by a dealer from the distributor for sale on consignment terms formed part of the dealer's trading stock for corporation tax purposes.

The Court of Appeal in a reserved judgment dismissed an appeal by the Crown from the judgment of Mr Justice Neill in the special commissioners' determination which upheld a claim by the dealer, London Sports Car Centre Ltd, for stock relief under paragraph 9 of Schedule 5 to the Finance Act 1976 in respect of Alfa Romeo cars obtained on consignment terms.

Mr. Andrew Park, QC and Mr. Alan Moss for the Crown; Mr. David Milne for the dealer.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the question was whether a trader's entitlement to stock relief under the 1976 Act depended on his being the owner of the stock.

Anyone who looked at the arrangement between the distributor (Alfa Romeo) and the dealer (the taxpayer) without having to trouble himself with the 1976 Act would conclude that its effect was to enable the taxpayer to trade in the cars directly upon delivery and would be started by the suggestion that they

did not become part of the taxpayer's trading stock and remained part of Alfa Romeo's.

It was said that the word "property" connoted ownership and that "this trading stock" in paragraph 9(1) (a) and (b) of Schedule 5 to the Act referred only to trading stock which was owned by the company.

The fallacy in that submission was its assumption that the word "property" in paragraph 9(1) connoted ownership. It only did that when governed by some other word, for example, a possessive pronoun. In clearly included the cars under consideration.

But for points raised in argument the court would have been content to adopt the judge's judgment.

It was said that the judge deferred excessively to the view of the accountants as appeared from the way the matter was treated in the taxpayers' accounts.

The court disagreed. The judge regarded the accountants' view as being good evidence, perhaps the best evidence, of the commercial reality of the situation. He thought that the statute was more concerned with that than with the niceties of ownership. He was perfectly correct. He did not allow the accountants' view to pre-empt the construction of the statute.

It was submitted that, while accepting the commissioners' finding, nevertheless the cars were properly to be regarded as part of Alfa Romeo's trading stock. The court disagreed. The judge regarded the accountants' view as being good evidence, perhaps the best evidence, of the commercial reality of the situation. He thought that the statute was more concerned with that than with the niceties of ownership. He was perfectly correct. He did not allow the accountants' view to pre-empt the construction of the statute.

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Additional tax assessment valid

Duchy Maternity Ltd v Hodgson (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Mr Justice Walton

Judgment delivered July 9

A tax inspector, becoming aware that a company's profits had not been fully assessed to corporation tax, had jurisdiction under section 29 of the Taxes Management Act 1970 to raise a further assessment notwithstanding that the original assessment, being under appeal, was capable of covering the totality of the company's profits.

Mr Justice Walton held in the Chancery Division in dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer company, Duchy Maternity Ltd, from a determination by the General Commissioners, who confirmed two assessments to corporation tax made on it for its accounting period to March 31, 1975 in sums totalling £172,751.

The appeal was dismissed. Solicitors: Solicitors of Inland Revenue; Titmuss Sainer & Webb.

NEWBORN LONDON BOROUGH COUNCIL v WARD

The Employment Appeal Tribunal erred in law in holding that an employer did not finally terminate an employee's employment until such time as that employee was supplied with his P45 income tax form. For the purposes of applying the time limit provisions for bringing a claim for unfair dismissal, the date of dismissal of the employee was the effective date of termination.

Mr. Andrew Park, QC and Mr. Alan Moss for the Crown; Mr. David Milne for the dealer.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the question was whether a trader's entitlement to stock relief under the 1976 Act depended on his being the owner of the stock.

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It was said that the judge deferred excessively to the view of the accountants as appeared from the way the matter was treated in the taxpayers' accounts.

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Mr Andrew Thornhill, QC, for the taxpayer company; Mr Christopher McCall for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE WALTON said that in January 1976 the taxpayer company was assessed to corporation tax for the accounting period in an estimated amount of £100,000 and in respect of which it put in a notice of appeal. In November 1977 the inspector raised a further assessment for that period of £72,751.

In due course the commissioners dismissed the taxpayer company's appeal against both assessments. The present dispute related only to the fact that there were two assessments and what should have been done with them by the commissioners.

Mr Thornhill sought to have the original assessment increased to cover the full amount of the profits. If that was done then the interest payable in respect of the tax due would, under section 45 of the Finance (No 2) Act 1975 (substituting a new section 55 of the Taxes Management Act 1970) only be on the amount stated in the original assessment - that was on 52 per cent of £100,000 - and not on the increased amount as determined by the commissioners. He said that the additional assessment was void, the inspector having no jurisdiction to make it under 29 of the 1970 Act. He arrived at that radical submission by saying that as under section 50(6) and (7) of the Act the commissioners determine the

appeal against the original assessment had power either to reduce or to increase it, it followed that that assessment was capable of covering the totality of the taxpayer company's profits for the period.

But section 50 did not impinge on the tax inspector's powers at all from a practical point of view there were advantages in an additional assessment being raised giving the amounts on which the inspector was going to rely. Interpretation of section 29(3) (a) made it clear that the inspector had power to make the additional assessment in the circumstances.

Next, Mr Thornhill submitted that even if that assessment was valid the commissioners, having determined the appeal in favour of the Crown, should have dealt with the original assessment by increasing it and discharging the later one.

But that was to assume the commissioners were living in cloud cuckoo land, one well knew that both sets of commissioners had their feet firmly on the ground. Here administratively all went smoothly.

The appeal against the two assessments were heard together: between the two the Crown had the amounts exactly right. Both assessments correctly covered the ground and by virtue of section 50(6) both fell to be affirmed. That was the only course open to the commissioners. The appeal was dismissed.

Solicitors: Bervin Leighton; Solicitors of Inland Revenue.

Appeal on status is abuse of procedure

Baker and Others v Saperite Tools Ltd

Before Mr Justice Peter Gibson, Mr T. Rogers and Mr E. Webb

Judgment delivered July 2

The Employment Appeal Tribunal refused to hear an appeal in an action where the parties were not in dispute but wanted an authoritative decision on whether the applicants were self-employed, as they believed they were, or whether they were employees, as the Inland Revenue considered them to be.

The appeal tribunal held that it was an extraordinary use of the appellate procedure by the applicants, Mr P. F. Clayton and three others, and the company, Saperite Tools Ltd, when Parliament had laid down a detailed and specific procedure for determining disputes between a party and the Inland Revenue in the Taxes Management Act 1970.

Mr Martin Reynolds for the applicants; Mr A. V. B. Bartlett for the company.

MR JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said that the applicants had originally been taxed under Schedule D as self-employed but the Revenue had changed their minds and claimed that they were employees and should be taxed under Schedule E. The parties and the industrial tribunal sitting at Birmingham last September considered that the applicants were not employees within the meaning of section 153 (1) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978. The appeal had been brought to give more weight to an argument based on the industrial tribunal's decision.

The originating application was presented to the industrial tribunal under section 11 of the 1978 Act which enabled an employee who was refused a statement of his terms of employment to require a reference to an industrial tribunal.

The case was brought because of *Adkins v London Philharmonic Orchestra Ltd* (1981) 1 ICR 261 where a number of musicians who regarded themselves as self-employed made an application in much the same way and the appeal tribunal were prepared to entertain an appeal from that decision.

It was apparent that there was a genuine dispute between the parties. It was extraordinary that the appellate procedure should be used in such a way.

Nothing the appeal tribunal said would bind either the Inland Revenue or the parties and it was an abuse of a procedure for the resolution of genuine disputes on issues of law. The appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Maden & Shotton; Walsall; Anne R. Fowler, Llanelli.

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VW tries to pick up the Sloane market



The Golf "Caddy" pick-up: an eye catching winner

When Volkswagen stopped making the old Golf last year it shipped a lot of the outdated machinery to Yugoslavia. The result of this deal was the VW Caddy, a 14th pick-up based on the Mark I Golf. An essential requirement of the deal was that a substantial portion of the output should be exported to earn hard Western currency for the Yugoslavs.

But the Caddy would still display VW badges and be sold as a VW so Wolfsburg insisted that every single Caddy should be transported to Germany for checking before it was sold.

As a result the 1.6 litre Golf Caddy costing £3,660 (petrol) and £4,086 (diesel) is acquiring such an excellent reputation as a light load mover-cum-personal transport with a difference that VAG, the UK concessionaires for VW and Audi have requested deliveries to be increased.

But the story does not end there. Pick-up trucks have long been popular in the United States where extravagantly customized versions are favoured by the American equivalent of our Sloane Rangers. Richard Lloyd's GTI Engineering Company at Silverstone hopes to persuade Rangers and similar extremists that a personalised Golf Caddy is not only a more eye-catching conveyance than their present Range Rovers but a hell of a lot cheaper.

His first prototype costs £2,680 and to put that into perspective the cheapest Range Rover costs £13,632. Of course you could buy a new Golf GTI, the pioneer and still one of the best hot hatchbacks for £7,958 but who would notice you when you parked it at the club?

The Lloyd version has the engine bored out to 1.8 and modified to give a top speed of around 100 mph. But do not be misled by the GTI name of the company carrying out the work. This is not a genuine GTI unit with fuel injection. Bottom end power is much increased but it runs out of breath in the higher range long before the factory GTI.

The engine accounts for £1,300 of the extra £5,000. The remainder goes in body styling bits like a front air dam, alloy wheels, fatter tyres, racing type seats, load support rails for carrying such essentials as surfboards, skis or canoes, beefed up suspension, extra instruments to monitor the health of such an active beast and a pair of cab top sport lights for the odd night safari. On

the road the rather stoic looking all-black prototype is a mixture of good and bad.

The good is the car-like driving and the ability to get off the mark so sprightly that you begin to enjoy the surprised look on the faces of other drivers. The bad is the Mark I Golf brakes requiring more than average physical effort and still falling short of today's very high standards. The oversized tyres and the lack of power steering also demand more muscle. The four speed gear box is similarly heavy to operate and noisy in its selection.

GTI Engineering have used body styling parts supplied by BBS of West Germany but are quite prepared to tailor the Caddy to individual requirements. I would look at the proliferation of styling "goodies" on the market and do my own sums before choosing.

Jaguar Plus:

Cutting a £20,000 Jaguar Sovereign in half and grafting in an extra 10 inches seems a very chancy exercise indeed. The Jaguar is one of the most beautifully balanced luxury cars around and indeed the biggest problem facing Jaguar with the long awaited new XJ 40 is making it better than the existing model. Another 10 inches on the wheel base together with the extra body weight of the extension could spell disaster. Even if the handling is still acceptable what have you achieved with only 10 more inches? It is not enough to add an extra row of seats. You need at least another 2 feet for that.

But 10 inches is all that Coleman Milne, the very experienced Bolton

coach builders have put into their Coleman Milne X10 D (get it? extended?) conversion of the Jaguar Sovereign 4.2.

They have used some of the additional lengths to rebuild the plinth on which the rear seats are mounted to make them lower and deeper with an extra timber support. It is also now possible to stretch your legs to the full, a useful improvement for an after lunch snooze. In other words they are after the chairman's chauffeur-driven business with the emphasis on rear-compartment luxury.

Vital Statistics:

Model: Coleman Milne X10 D.
Price: £29,750
Engine: 4,255 cc, 6 cylinder in-line
Performance: Max speed 120 mph, 0-60 11.9secs.
Official consumption: Urban, 16.4 mpg; 56 mpg, 28.8 mpg; 54 mpg 23.8 mpg.
Length: 17.1ft.
Insurance: Individual application.

Bigger rear doors giving easier access to comfortably built VIPs, deep pile lambswool rugs, occasional tables which fold down from the backs of the front seats and strategically placed lights for closer examination of the small print on the new finance director's contract are unashamed appeals to buyers of top people's transport.

And that is only the basic model. If you want to keep your chauffeur in the dark about the conversation with the Middle East gentlemen you have just collected from the Dorchester, Coleman Milne will fit

a partition and build in a hidden cocktail cabinet, television and radio communications equipment.

On the road the X10 D attracts little attention from other motorists unless they are at the wheel of a Jaguar. One pulled alongside me on the M5 just to check the length beside his own car. The almost anonymous nature of the added length and luxury could be one of the car's biggest attractions to security conscious VIPs.

But what about the key question of handling and ride? Have they been seriously compromised? I found an immediate difference. The X10 D wallows on bends taken at a speed. There is also a slight lag in the car's reaction when being steered around sharp corners and turning into side streets. The latter is something you soon become aware of and is not a serious complaint. The wallowing on fast bends is not so easy to come to terms with.

Someone is bound to point out that this car is intended for sedate use by a chauffeur who will adjust his speed to give the boss the best possible ride. That is probably true, but it does seem a shame that such a proud beast as a Jaguar Sovereign cannot be driven as it was intended.

The basic X10 D will set you back £19,750 an extra £10,000 over the factory model.

Early Citroën

It is not often that British motorists are treated on a par with their French opposite numbers when it comes to the launching of new French cars.

At the earliest they are several months and sometimes over a year behind. But not so, the new Citroën BX Estate range. It was launched in France at the beginning of this month and originally planned to make an appearance here about September.

Citroën dealers were told this week, however, that supplies are better than hoped and they can take orders now for delivery in the second half of August. I suspect there is a little more to it than that. Someone at Citroën's Slough headquarters realized that with one in five of all the cars bought in Britain being registered in August the new BX Estate would miss the boat if it was shelved until September. Prices start at £7,100.

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JAGUAR XJS HE A registered 14,500 miles. Claret/door skin. One owner. Immaculate. Cruise control. 1 year warranty. £16,250. (0472) 78037	1974 E type V12 convertible Rear window 34,000 miles. £14,950. Tel: 01-436 2112 daytime
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Doubts on youth training scheme

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

The effectiveness of the £800 million Youth Training Scheme was questioned in a report from Sir Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General, yesterday.

The report expressed concern that more than half of the first year's entrants failed to complete their courses; that the Manpower Services Commission may have wasted as much as £55 million on unfilled places in the first year of the scheme, which started in April 1983; and that there was no central control over the balance of occupational training provided.

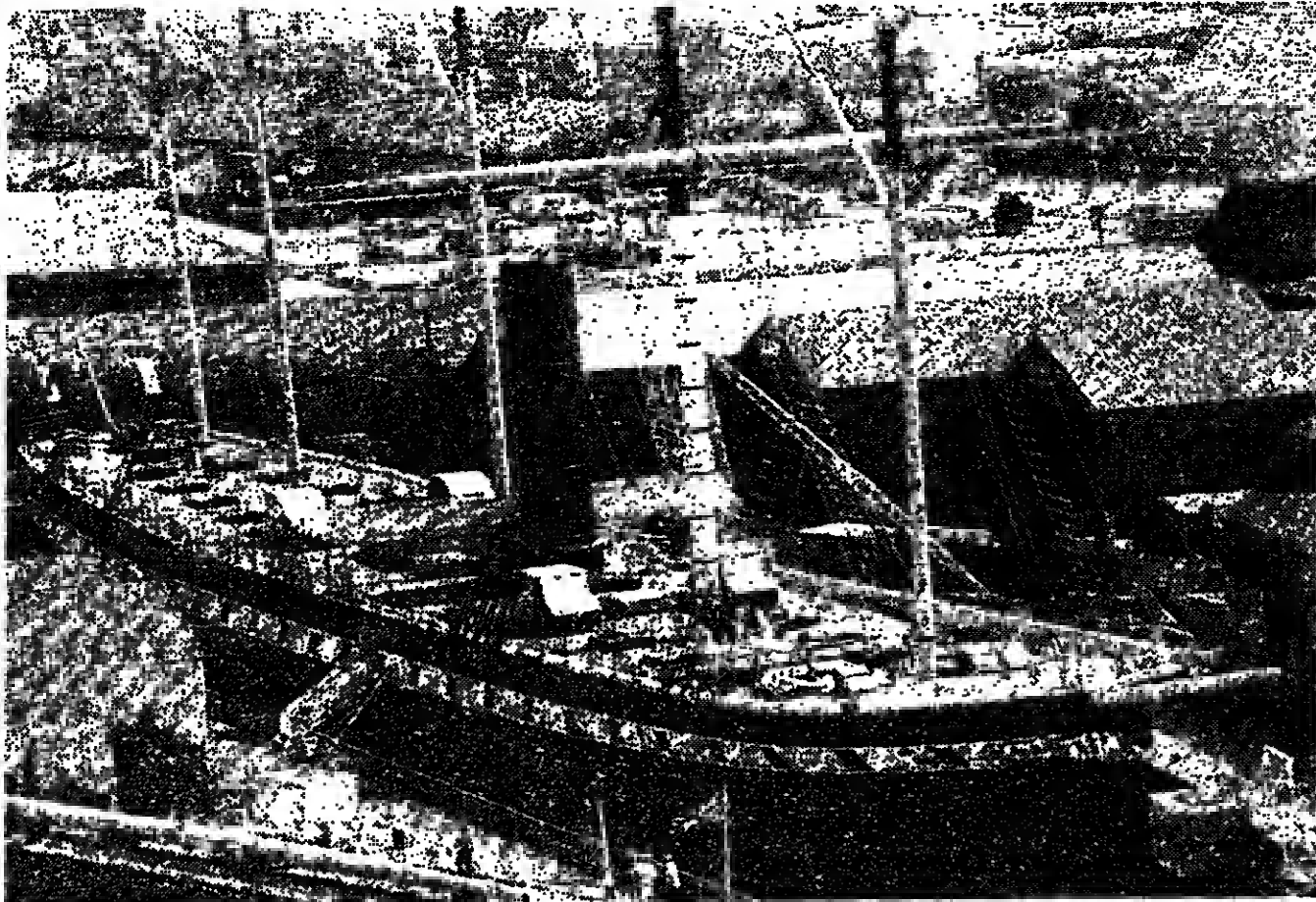
Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced in the Budget that the YTS was to be extended by one year from next April to provide two years of work-related training for school leavers aged 16. Those who leave school at 17 will continue to be eligible for one-year courses and the aim was to ensure that unemployment was "no longer an option".

But Sir Gordon's report is certain to raise doubts about the impact of the scheme. He said that it was still too early to expect to find "conclusive evidence" about its effectiveness in training people for employment, but the proportion of early leavers was "one factor of importance".

The report showed that more than 80 per cent of the 60,800 teenagers leaving the scheme in the first three months of this year failed to complete their courses.

Early surveys had shown that between 49 per cent and 62 per cent of those leaving courses between June and October last year found work within three months. But 38 per cent of the trainees who left the YTS last October had failed to find work by January.

Sir Gordon said that the MSC had been "over-optimistic" in assuming that all 360,000 first-year places would be filled by eligible unemployed aged 16 and 17. The highest occupancy level of the scheme had been 58 per cent in 1983-84; £55 million may have been lost on unfilled places.



The Great Britain docked and being restored, at Bristol and (below) soon after her launch.

Brunel's great ship gets £1m boost

A sea saga long and bizarre enough to satisfy any ancient mariner goes into a new stanza today with the announcement of a £1 million gift to the SS Great Britain, the revolutionary steamship built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel in 1843.

Mr J. Paul Getty, Junior, the oil millionaire, and Mr Jack Hayward, the Bahamas-based entrepreneur, are to give £500,000 each towards the ship's restoration, which has been under way in Bristol docks for more than a decade.

Both men have funded earlier stages of the project and it was Mr Hayward, also a founder of Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel, who paid for the Great Britain to be salvaged in the Falklands 15 years ago.

The world's first propeller-driven steamship had lain there since 1886, when she was damaged in a storm, sold for scrap to the Falkland Islands Company and later beached in

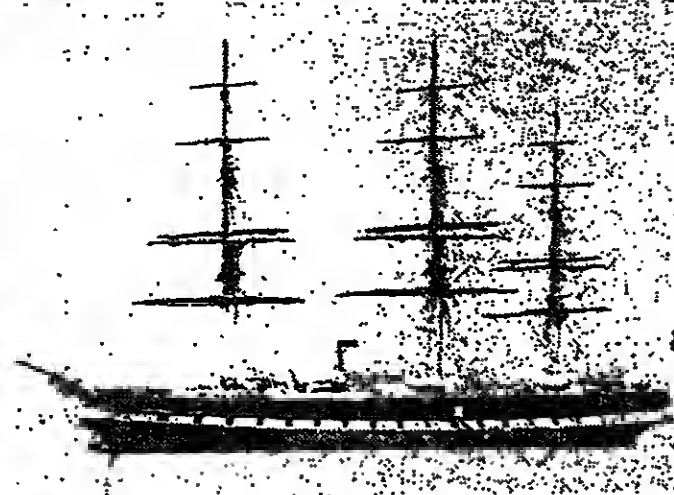
Sparrow Cove, four miles from Stanley.

In 1970 the SS Great Britain Project hired a salvage team to refloat the rusted hull, patch it up and tow it back to Bristol, where in the same dry-dock in which she was built — the ship has become a big tourist attraction.

The Duke of Edinburgh was on board when the Great Britain was returned to her home and he will see a transformed vessel when he goes on board during a visit by The Queen next Friday.

The hull is now virtually rebuilt and the new donation will go towards restoring the engine room and passenger accommodation.

When Mr Hayward paid for the 1970 salvage operation, his dollar cheque for the equivalent of £130,000 had turned into £150,000 by the time it reached Britain "and we needed every penny", the project director, Commander Joe Blake, said.



New drugs unit formed

Continued from page 1

It will hold its first meeting next Tuesday and will give the Home Secretary periodic briefings on the progress of the war on drugs.

As part of the overall Government response to the police report, prepared by the Association of Chief Police

Officers, seven Customs officers are to be sent abroad, probably to South America and Spain, to provide forward intelligence of trafficking.

Mr Brittain's announcement follows a call last week by the Association of Chief Officers for extra resources to combat trafficking.

Top Civil Servants get up to 46% rise

Continued from page 1

calibre middle-ranking staff and a smaller proportion of the most able graduates were attracted to the Civil Service.

But the report also said that the "unmistakable signs of a widespread sense of disenchantment and restlessness" had not yet been translated into large-scale resignations, and that it would be "futile" to put all the blame for low morale on pay.

Manpower cuts had reduced promotion prospects and it was felt that the service had declined in public and ministerial esteem.

The report said: "In contrast with those in industry and commerce, seen as the wealth producing part of the economy, many Civil Servants although personally convinced of the value of the jobs they perform in the public service, have come increasingly to feel that they are regarded as in some sense parasitic."

Mrs Thatcher, who at present receives a reduced salary of £42,980, the same salary received by her Commons Cabinet colleagues, said last night: "It is of great importance for the health of the public service in this country that it should offer a career pay structure which will attract and retain people of the high quality which that service requires and deserves."

While not matching the private sector, she felt it was important to provide rewards which could be regarded by those concerned, by Parliament and by the public as fair but not generous in relation to the responsibilities carried.

The award for the 664 senior Civil Servants is 12.2 per cent; 206 senior officers 17.6 per cent and 1084 members of the judiciary 16.3 per cent. They will receive half the recommended increases from July 1, with the balance to be paid from March 1.

The directors of British Telecom received a pay increase last year averaging 64 per cent according to its accounts published yesterday. Sir George Jefferson, the chairman, received an increase of more than £27,000. His salary stands at about £160,000.

Other pay scales, page 2
Leading article, page 13

Linda Christmas in the Commons Absence makes the jibes grow stronger

The new Liberal spokesman on agriculture, Mr Richard Livsey, chose not to attend agricultural question time yesterday. He was much missed; his absence causing a handful of jibes from members on both sides of the House who presumably felt that he ought to have been there to listen, even if he felt disinclined to speak after a mere 24 hours with his new portfolio.

However, having only walked into Parliament a couple of weeks ago as the victor of the Brecon and Radnor election, he may have thought it wise not to frighten himself with glimpses of what is to come. He may have wished to avoid an hour's feeling like a Thomas Hardy character who had wandered into a different world; a world where there is no longer time to contemplate the seasons, let alone the hourly changes in the fields.

Agriculture in politics presents a sorry picture of grain and wheat tumbling from crammed storage silos while the EEC argues about prices; dairy farmers facing ruin; confectionery confronting export restrictions; and squabbles over fishing nets and sick pigs.

Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, bounced over each of these. A large man with a degree in agriculture, a Yorkshire farm and years of experience in politics, could not doubt be expected to bounce Mr Livsey might have found him a little overwhelming, but then he could have taken comfort from the less intimidating, Peggy Fennell, who spent four years in the department, constantly refers to, and reads from, a bulky file whenever it is her turn to handle a question.

But then the status of the monofilament net is something on which few of us are well-versed. Simon Hughes, who represents Southwark, where there can be few fishermen, seemed to think that such nets are a disgrace. Since he is the Opposition spokesman on the environment, his concern is quite naturally with the fish and his outburst ended with a request to have the things banned.

Mr Nicholas Soames endorsed this view with a loud "quite right". Now Crawley is not famed for its fishermen either, nor its fish, so members compensated by all at stake to account for such strong views, one is led to think that perhaps we ought to know more about these wicked monofilament things.

Sick pigs were at first sight an unlikely subject to generate heat in the Chamber, although of course Alan Bennett did manage to make a surprisingly successful film out of the subject and maybe there is a link. Mr Clement Freud was concerned to know how much compensation had been paid to big farmers for losses incurred through Aujeszky's Disease. He didn't say anything about the disease itself but since it has been around for a few years, members obviously know the details.

But those who don't know, could be forgiven for thinking that if they still feed pigs on the filth, the household waste and rats, to which Mr Bennett's pig was subjected, it is not surprising that 420,000 have had to be slaughtered in recent years.

Anyway, the gist of members' concern was who was picking up the tab for the eradication of the disease. Pig producers came the answer, which caused at least one member of each party to urge the Minister to have a little more sympathy with the industry. Mr Mark Hughes, who is clearly as concerned about sick pigs as he is about fishing nets, was at pains to remind the Minister that good animal health was his responsibility. Mr Jopling remained unconvinced. Mr Livsey has been warned.

All this was a good deal more intriguing than listening to Mr Roy Hattersley (standing in for the Africa-bound Mr Kinnoch) accuse the Prime Minister of destroying DHSS documents containing the all-important figures missing from the Green Paper on the reform of the Welfare State. It was another attempt to provoke a round of gainers and losers. Mrs Thatcher stalled and Mr Hattersley was the loser.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, reopens the modernized wing at St Dunstan's Training Establishment, Jan Fraser House, Ovingdean, Brighton, 11; later the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attend a Garden Party given by HMS Britannia at HMS Excellent, Whale Island, Portsmouth, 2.45.

The Princess of Wales visits the Army Staff College, Camberley, Surrey, 10.45.

The Duke of Kent, as President, visits the Automobile Association's operations at Halesowen, 10.45; to the evening as Chairman of the United Kingdom Committee of European Music Year, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent, attends the

Opening of the 1985 season of Promenade Concerts, 7.10.

Music

Chesler Music Festival: Concert by the Stuttgart Piano Trio, Town Hall, Chester, 8.

Gower Festival: Fortepiano recital by Harold Lester, Rhesall Church, 8.

Guitar recital by Bridget Upson, Llanrhondd Church, Somerset, 8.

Concert by the Paragon String Ensemble, Niccol Centre, Brewery Court, Cirencester, 8.

Redcliffe Music Festival: Concert by the Mendelssohn Choir, 12.45; Concert by the Choir of Bristol Cathedral, 7.30; St Mary Redcliffe Church, Bristol.

Oundle International Organ Week: Organ recital by István Eötvös, Oundle School Chapel, Oundle, 1.10; Concert by the Peterborough String Orchestra with James

Parsons (organ) and Sheila Lawrence (organ), Featherday Church, near Peterborough, 7.45.

Recital by Edward Huws Jones (viola da gamba) and Graham Treacher (harpsichord), All Saints' Church, North Street, 1.

Book Fair, Abbey Theatre, Holywell Hill, St Albans, 2 to 8, tomorrow 10 to 5.

Flowers for the Spire — a flower festival and exhibition of local Catholic history, St Gregory's Church, Cheltenham, 12 to 7, tomorrow 10.30 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30, Mon and Tues 10.30 to 5.30.

Saints in Glory — a festival of flowers, St Mark's, the Lord Mayor's Chapel, College Green, Bristol, 10.30 to 7 (until July 21).

Summer spectacular, Mapperton Gardens, Beaminster, Dorset, 7 to 11 daily, (ends tomorrow).

Food prices

Raspberries, probably the best of all English soft fruit, are now widely available and good value at 25 to 35p a quarter-lb punnet. Shoppers are advised to eat them within 24 hours of purchase, but very ripe berries can be used to make jam, wine or vinegar. Stimmers will be pleased to know they contain just 23 calories per 100 grams and are an excellent source of vitamins, English and Dutch strawberries at 50p to £1, nectarines 10 to 35p each according to size, peaches 6 to 20p each, plums from 30p per lb and gooseberries 20 to 30p per lb are all best buys. (Fine Fare have baskets of 11 or 13 peaches for 65p.)

There are a wide variety of beans available of which English Broad beans are the cheapest at 40 to 30p. English Broad beans at 30 to 35p, French Broad beans at 30 to 35p, and Broad beans at 30 to 35p. There are a wide variety of beans available of which English Broad beans are the cheapest at 40 to 30p. English Broad beans at 30 to 35p, French Broad beans at 30 to 35p, and Broad beans at 30 to 35p.

Superb salads include English and imported beet-house tomatoes at 25 to 35p a lb, cucumbers at 20 to 28p each, round lettuce at 15 to 28p each, iceberg at 40 to 70p, Webbs 35 to 40p and Cos at 30 to 45p. Home-produced best prices are similar to last week but lamb and pork are down a penny on many cuts. A whole leg of lamb ranges from £1.40 to £1.86 per lb, whole shoulder roasts at £1.20 to £1.30, loin chops at £1.58 to £1.99, whole leg of pork at £1.36 to £1.60, loin chops at £1.26 to £1.50 and ribs chops at £1.44. Pork sausages sell at 66 to 88p.

New Zealand shoulder of lamb is down 2p a lb to an average price of 84p.

Chicken, particularly good for summer meals, is on offer at many shops and supermarkets at economic prices. Fresh, frozen, corn-fed chicken up to 3lb 15oz in weight, sells at 74p per lb, Sainsbury's whole fresh chicken is 62p per lb, Beau frozen 2lb packs of chicken drumsticks are £1.79 and whole chickens 49p per lb.

Although the choice of fish may be limited this week, supplies of plaice, haddock fillets, grey mullet and berrings are very plentiful. Plaice fillets are £1.50 to £1.60, whole plaice at 60p to 68p are cheaper than last week. Haddock fillets at £1.50 to £2, grey mullet is 80p to £1.20, berrings are 50 to 55p a lb and rainbow trout at £1.10 to £1.50 are all good buys.

Wales and West-A38: Lanes closed at Voss Farm overbridge and Plympton Viaduct, Marsh Mill, Devon, A31: Suburban construction between Farnford and Ringwood, Dorset, at Trickett's Cross, A48: Westbound lane closures at Treagar Park, Newport, Gwent.

Norfolk: M1: Contraflow between junctions 33 and 34, Sheffield and Rotherham: two lanes each way, brief closures of some slip roads.

N63: Resurfacing between junctions 7 and 9, Greater Manchester, access to and from A5103 (junction 9) maintained. A627: Astor Road closed to traffic approaching Oldham diversion.

Swindon: A85: Single lane traffic with lights W side of Craigiehall, Morayshire, A93: Road Improvement 2 miles N of Cally, Perthshire.

Information supplied by AA

Roads

London and South-east: M10: Southbound lane closures at junction 10, A13: East India Dock Road and Commercial Road, 9.46. Outside lanes closed on both carriageways between junctions 4, Heathrow and 5, Langley, centre lane eastbound closed, from 10 am to 7 pm. A466: Inside lane closed westbound on N Circular Road W of Eley Road, and Angel Road bridge to Edmonton.

Midlands: M54: Lanes closed to both directions on Wellington by-pass, Shropshire, A456: Temporary signals along Welch Gate, Bewdley, Hereford and Worcestershire, avoid area. A11: Single-lane traffic on Norfolk to Thetford Road at Cringleford; temporary signals at Hethersett.

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Information supplied by AA

Top films

The top box-office films in London:
1 (1) A View to a Kill
2 (2) The Untouchables
3 (3) The Untouchables
4 (4) The Untouchables
5 (5) The Untouchables
6 (6) The Untouchables
7 (7) The Untouchables
8 (8) The Untouchables
9 (9) The Untouchables
10 (10) The Untouchables

The top five in the provinces:
1 Police Academy II — The First Assignment
2 View to a Kill
3 The Untouchables
4 The Untouchables
5 The Untouchables

Compiled by Screen International

Portfolio

Portfolio — how to play
Monday-Saturday record your daily Portfolio
Add these together to determine your score
If your total matches the published weekly Portfolio score you have won tonight or a share of the prize money used for that week and must claim your prize as instructed below.

How to claim
Telephone 0272 722222 between 10.00 am and 5.00 pm on the day your overall total matches the Portfolio score. If you have a share of the prize money, you must claim your prize as instructed below.

If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Portfolio claims line between the stipulated times. No claim can be accepted outside these hours.
No responsibility can be accepted for failure to claim the prize money.
The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly Portfolio claims.
Some Times Portfolio cards include minor mistakes in the instructions on the reverse which have been corrected.
The working of Rules 1 and 2 has been explained from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The game itself is not changed and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

Weather forecast

A depression to NW of Scotland will fill slowly and drift NE to E of Iceland, maintaining a showery SW airstream over most of Britain.

6am to midnight

London, SE, central S, E, central N England, East Angles, Midlands: Sunny periods at first, but scattered showers developing, wind SW moderate, max temp 18 to 20C (64 to 68F).

Central Highlands: Sunny, NW Scotland: Rather cloudy with showers in some heavy rain W fresh, locally strong; max temp 14 to 18C (57 to 64F).

Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals and scattered showers; wind SW moderate to fresh; max temp 14C (57F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Sunny intervals and scattered showers in most areas, heavy in N on Saturday. Temperatures mostly below normal.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea Wind, S or SW, fresh or strong; sea moderate or rough. Irish Sea: S or SW, fresh or strong; sea moderate or rough. English Channel: S or SW, fresh or strong; sea moderate or rough.

First Quarter, July 25.

Lighting-up time

London 5.27pm to 4.37 am
Bristol 5.47 pm to 4.47 am
Edinburgh 6.02 pm to 4.36 am
Preston 5.58 pm to 4.58 am

Yesterday

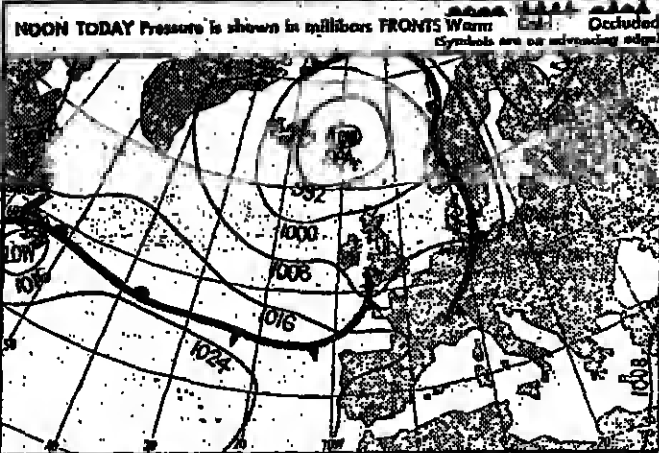
Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, about 1, rain, s, sun, F

London 14.57, Glasgow 13.58, Birmingham 13.58, Manchester 13.58, Bristol 13.58, Cardiff 13.58, Liverpool 13.58, Newcastle 13.58, Nottingham 13.58, Oxford 13.58, Peterborough 13.58, Reading 13.58, Southampton 13.58, Swansea 13.58, Telford 13.58, Walsley 13.58, Wolverhampton 13.58, York 13.58

Pollen count

The pollen count for London and the South-east is issued by the Asthma Research Council at 10am yesterday noon, which is very low. For today's recording call British Telephones 01-437 6001, which is updated each day at 12 noon.

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High tides

TODAY
London Bridge 3.48 AM HT 3.53 PM HT
Aberdeen 2.48 AM HT 3.27 PM HT
Belfast 2.48 AM HT 3.27 PM HT
Birmingham 2.48 AM HT 3.27 PM HT
Bristol 2.48 AM HT 3.27 PM HT
Cardiff 2.48 AM HT 3.27 PM HT
Dover 2.48 AM HT 3.27 PM HT
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Wolverhampton 2.48 AM HT 3.27 PM HT
York 2.48 AM HT 3.27 PM HT

Sea level: 0.0m
Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.28084ft

Around Britain

Sea level: 0.0m
Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.28084ft

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Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.28084ft

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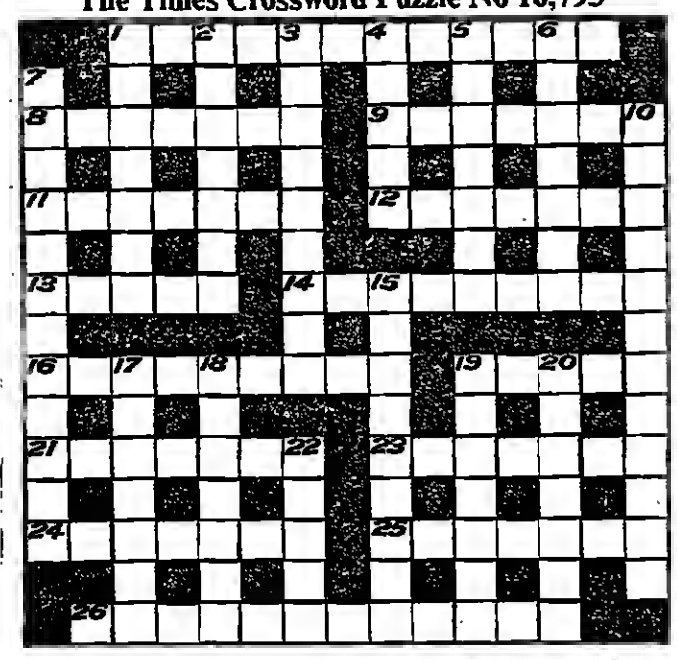
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Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.28084ft

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,793



ACROSS

- Support that could aid constitutional progress (7-5).
- Leaving nothing uncovered, to general (7).
- Final judgment — record it with legal writer, initially (7).
- Outstanding work I put into production of "Oliver" (7).
- Painter's medium or moderate article (7).
- Divine creature in chorus-line (5).
- Important case in which contract may be finalized (5,4).
- Influential round if it's ome of the last matches (9).
- Tree about to add another ring (5).
- Flying Squad? (7).
- These novel diamonds may be cut with ease (7).
- Met nine or ten men I collected as famous (7).
- Poet lacking capital more affected by freeze (7).
- Physical pastimes resumed after fall (6,6).

DOWN

- Archaeologist's horse (7).
- Articles in van (7).
- Is no female detailed to move here? (4,2,3).

Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

Solution of Puzzle No 16,792

1 Across: Support that could aid constitutional progress (7-5).
2 Down: Flying Squad? (7).
3 Across: These novel diamonds may be cut with ease (7).
4 Down: Met nine or ten men I collected as famous (7).
5 Across: Poet lacking capital more affected by freeze (7).
6 Down: Physical pastimes resumed after fall (6,6).
7 Across: Support that could aid constitutional progress (7-5).
8 Down: Flying Squad? (7).
9 Across: These novel diamonds may be cut with ease (7).
10 Down: Met nine or ten men I collected as famous (7).
11 Across: Poet lacking capital more affected by freeze (7).
12 Down: Physical pastimes resumed after fall (6,6).

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order and other Northern Ireland Orders.

Anniversaries

Births: John Martin, historical painter, Haydon Bridge, Northumberland, 1789; Edgar Degas, Paris, 1834.

Deaths: Matthew Flinders, explorer, London, 1814; Syngman Rhee, first president of Korea (South Korea) 1948-60, Honolulu, 1965.